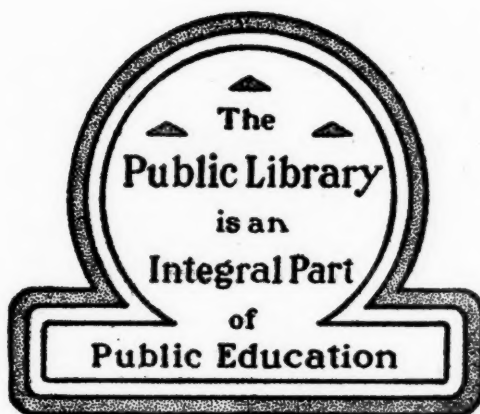


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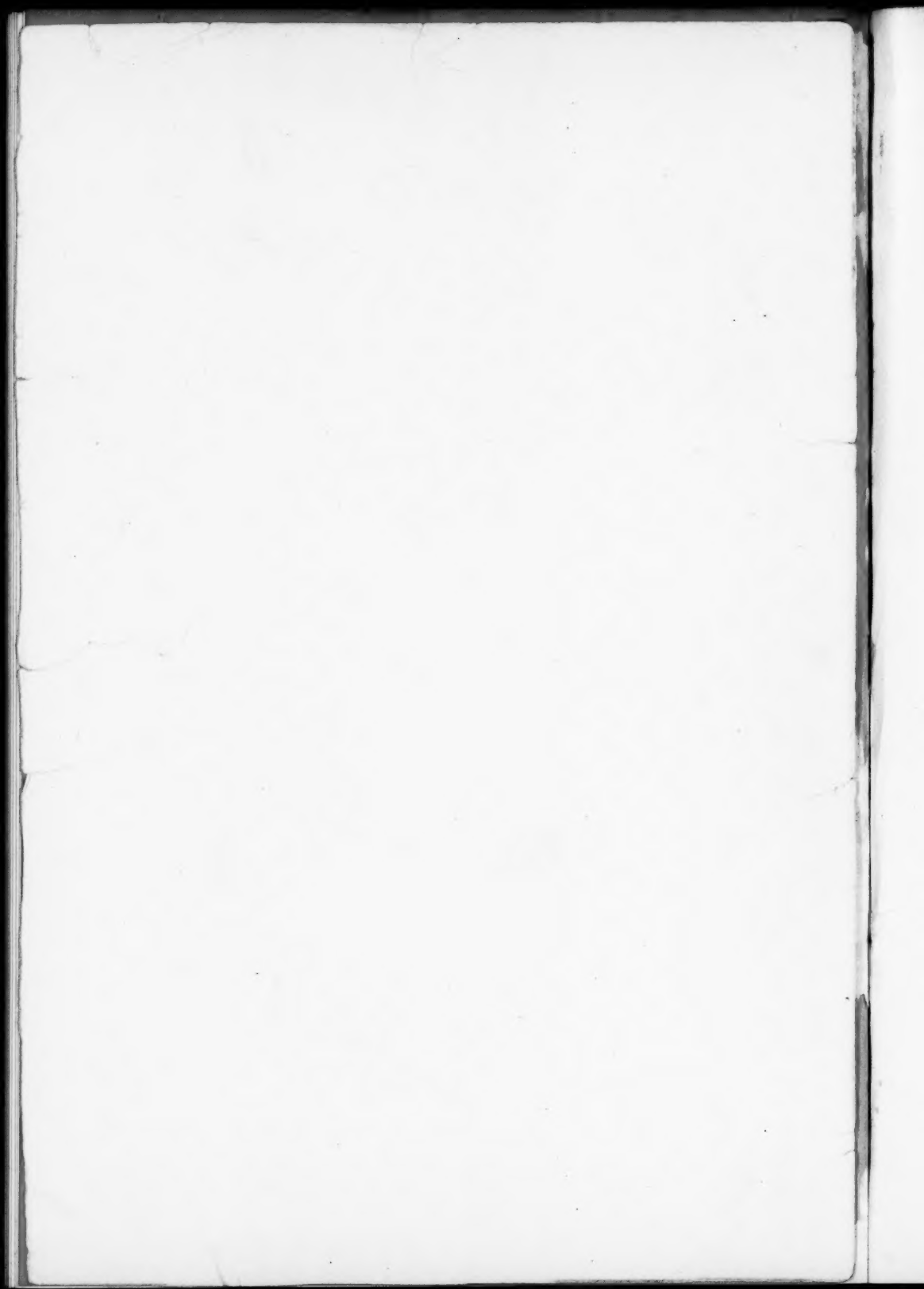
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CONTENTS—June, 1908

| | |
|---|--|
| The modern library movement 197-201 | American library institute 222 |
| Josephine A. Rathbone | Postponement |
| Some essentials of co-operative cataloging 201-206 | National education association 223 |
| Esther Crawford | Program of library section |
| Reminiscences of an untrained librarian 207-211 | Library schools 223-225 |
| List of novels for students 211 | Carnegie library of Pittsburgh |
| Additional Dumas material 211-212 | Drexel institute |
| Lower Norfolk Co. Antiquary 212 | University of Illinois |
| Sunday school libraries 212 | Western Reserve university |
| Amending the A. L. A. constitution 213 | Summer schools |
| Ottawa's invitation to the A. L. A. 213 | Ontario library association 226-228 |
| Editorial 214-216 | Report of proceedings |
| Reading course 216-217 | Library meetings 229-234 |
| The acme of co-operation 217-218 | Chicago |
| Public documents in France 218 | District of Columbia |
| Civic improvement 219 | Georgia |
| Books about gardening | Iowa |
| A. L. A. report on new books 219 | Kansas |
| A library institute for Illinois 220-222 | Massachusetts |
| A. L. A. notes | Montana |
| Railroad arrangements | Nebraska |
| Program | New York |
| Hotel arrangements | Pennsylvania |
| A correction | Illinois library school association 234-235 |
| N. E. A. meeting | Alumni representatives |
| | Meeting at Minnetonka |
| | Interesting things in print 235 |
| | News from the field 236-239 |
| | New books 240 |

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The Modern Library Movement

Josephine A. Rathbone, Instructor Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

It has sometimes been said that the times we live in will be known in the future as the age of library building. A 25 years' retrospect of library progress surprises even those who have been in the midst of the work, and the world at large has but little idea of the magnitude of the movement. So, in beginning, I will state in numbers well rounded, that they may be the more easily assimilated, some few facts that are significant of the course of library progress.

The year 1876 is commonly taken as the starting point of what is known among us as the modern library movement. At the Centennial was founded the first permanent organization of librarians in this or any other country; the first library periodical was born in that year, and what makes it a very convenient year to use as a starting point for comparative statistics, there was published then the first government report on libraries which had any pretension to completeness and accuracy. We therefore know the condition of libraries in 1876 as we do not at any given time previous.

There were 2000 libraries in the country of over 1000 v. in 1876. There were nearly 7000 in 1903, the latest figures obtainable. Probably 8000 would be nearer the figures today, judging by the increase between 1900 and 1903. The population of the United States has increased 83 per

cent in that time, the increase of libraries has been 374 per cent. One library, the Library of Congress, had 300,000 v. in 1876. There are today two (the New York public library and the Library of Congress) well over 1,000,000 v.; four, the Boston public library, the Brooklyn public library, Harvard university and the New York state library over 500,000, and probably a dozen as large as the Library of Congress was in 1876. The total number of books reported in 1876 was 12,000,000; in 1903, 55,000,000; while more libraries today have over 5000 v. than had 300 v. in 1876.

In 1890 a report was made to the American Library Association of gifts and bequests that had been made to libraries up to that time. It amounted to over \$22,000,000, but from 1890 to 1905 the sums reported amounted to over \$64,000,000. Of course, the benefactions of Mr. Carnegie have greatly swollen the totals, but subtracting his \$44,000,000, there still remains more than \$20,000,000, which has been given in 15 years for library buildings, books and equipment. Besides bequests of money, many buildings have been given outright and book collections have been bequeathed. The entire value of the library plant in the country, endowment, books, buildings and equipment, reaches a grand total of \$113,000,000, with an annual income of \$10,000,000 and annual expenditures of over \$8,000,000; while in 1876 the reported expenditure was only a little over \$1,000,000.

Has the home use of books from these libraries increased in proportion to their resources? Is there an adequate return in use for this enormous increase in equipment and expenditure? The total yearly use of books reported in 1876 was 8,800,000. In 1903 there was reported an annual circulation of over 59,000,000 v. So that while the number of libraries has multiplied four times since 1876 and the number of books in the libraries of the country has increased four and one-half times, the circulation of books has increased more than six times. Nearly twice as many books were circulated in New York state in the year 1906 as in the whole country in 1876, and the Public library of New York alone circulated one-half as many volumes in 1905 as were circulated throughout the United States 30 years ago.

If the progress of American libraries had been a material progress alone, I should certainly owe my readers an apology for troubling them with statistics of mere bigness. There is almost a brutality about such figures taken by themselves, and were they not the outward and visible expression of a real living spiritual force, they would have neither vital interest nor permanent significance. Pig iron or tin plate could show figures far more imposing.

But libraries have increased and multiplied because the idea that the library is an essential part of the educational equipment of a community has gradually spread throughout the country, and the profession has conceived higher ideals of librarianship than formerly, has realized that it presents an unequaled opportunity for social service, and the dynamic effect of this conception has led to growth and activity of which the material growth is merely the outward expression.

The librarian of the past was a lover of books for their own sake, a collector of them for the love of collecting, happiest when they were safely

stored on the shelves, each in its own appointed place. The typical modern librarian loves books for their part in the enrichment of life; he is never so happy as when the shelves are empty and the books themselves wear out in service.

The activities within the profession were devoted for the first decade after the organization of the American Library Association to perfecting the machinery of library administration. There was no uniformity of usage among the older libraries, each devised its own methods, which were often cumbersome and inelastic in the extreme. The New York state library, for example, of over 100,000 v., was arranged in one alphabet by author, to which the librarian was the sole subject index. In his absence one searched from A to Z for a book on chess or a history of Poland. So the first need was for a systematized code of library practice. Books had to be arranged and their contents made accessible before they could be used to their best advantage, therefore problems of cataloging, systems of classification, charging systems, book numbers, and all the details of library science occupied the energies of librarians for 10 or a dozen years almost to the exclusion of the book and its mission.

With a well-ordered library technique came the necessity for workers trained to the use of these technicalities, and the year 1887 marked the establishment of the first library school. There are now 10 recognized library schools with courses of one or two years each, while summer schools are to be found in almost every northern and western state, and nearly every large library has its apprentice class, in which students are trained in the routine work of that library.

By 1890 the problems of administration were pretty completely solved and a new stage was reached in the library movement. State commissions to fos-

ter the establishment of new libraries and to promote the best interests of the libraries of the state date from this time (the first was established in Massachusetts in 1891). Most of the commissions employ a library organizer, who travels through the state, arousing interest, who helps the smaller communities desiring libraries to select the books, prepare them for use, and who often trains the local librarian to administer her collection. The commissions frequently conduct summer schools, at which the librarians of the smaller libraries can get the rudiments of library science. The commissions today are one of the most important factors in the development of libraries, especially among the smaller communities of the country.

Traveling libraries (small collections of books in box cases that can be sent from place to place) were started out from the New York state library in 1892. They have become an activity of nearly every library commission in the country; they are sent to small places where there is no library, or to help the little libraries freshen their stock. The federation of women's clubs have taken them up in some states, and many of the larger public libraries are sending them to strategic points—fire engine houses, prisons, factories, district messenger headquarters, street car barns, and the like.

The frequent request of the small child who wants to become a reader, "Please give me a library," is almost literally complied with nowadays.

The locked case and closed book room, practically universal 25 years ago, has given way to a more liberal access to books. Free access to reference books and to children's books is now universal; most of the smaller libraries built in the last 10 years have free and unlimited access to all shelves; many of the larger libraries, notably Cleveland and Newark, give the same privilege, while very many of the larger li-

braries have carefully selected collections of from 10,000 to 20,000 books which are on open shelves, where all comers may handle and examine them and from which a large percentage of the books circulated are taken.

One of the most interesting features of the new movement is work with children. In 1876 practically all libraries had an age limit. In 1894 the question of the reading of the young came up for the first time before the American Library Association. In this first report it was stated that 70 per cent of the libraries of the country had an age limit, which average about 13 years. In other words, the children of the country under 12 or 13 years of age could not enter a library building, "Children and dogs not admitted" the signs read in many cases. Only three libraries had separate children's rooms, and only one an attendant especially to look after the children's reading. A strong plea for specialized attention to children's reading was made, to which response was immediate. In 1895 five libraries opened special rooms for children, including the Boston, Seattle and San Francisco public libraries. Six more followed in 1896, and it is hardly too much to say that no public library of any size has been built since that time without provision for separate work for children.

A school for the training of children's librarians was started in Pittsburgh in 1900, and it cannot train students fast enough to keep up with the demand for their services. Careful evaluation of children's books, the revival of the old art of story-telling serving as a means of introducing children to the Norse and classical myths, the old epics and story cycles, the literature of the race-childhood, the use of picture bulletins to stimulate interest in art, history and nature, are among the activities that have developed in children's work during the past 10 years. The libraries are also doing a part in keep-

ing up the traditions and observances of holiday festivals and anniversaries by celebrating these in the children's room. Work with children through the schools began somewhat earlier. Charles Francis Adams directed attention in 1876 to the need of coöperation between schools and libraries in an address to the teachers of Quincy, Mass., in which he said, though the schools and the library stand on our main street, side by side, there is, so to speak, no bridge between them. The first active work toward building this bridge was begun in Worcester, Mass., in 1879 by a conference between a committee of the school authorities and the librarian, when plans were devised by which the school work could be made more interesting and profitable by means of the library's coöperation. Teachers were allowed to take numbers of books to the class room and classes were brought to the library to see collections of books and pictures.

The experiment was also started there of bringing high school students to the library in small squads for instruction in the use of catalogs, reference books, indexes, etc. Efforts to bring about active coöperation were made by many libraries during the decade of the '80s. Teachers were given special privileges, lists were sent to the schools of books suitable for school use, small libraries were sent to class rooms in Worcester, Cleveland, Milwaukee and other places. The schools began to be interested about 1889, in which year the first article on the subject appeared in *Education*. In 1896 a petition was presented to the National Education Association by the State Librarian of New York, requesting the establishment of a library department, which was acted on favorably, and in the same year a committee was appointed by the American Library Association to coöperate with this department. A thorough investigation of possible and advisable methods of co-

operation was made and a report presented to the National Education Association at its 1899 meeting. This report was published in pamphlet form and it has been a potent factor in promoting a knowledge of the possibilities of this work, both among librarians and teachers. Most of the larger libraries now have a school department with at least one assistant, whose whole time is devoted to work with schools. In some cases this work is connected directly with the children's library work, in other cases it is a separate coöperating department.

The normal schools are awakening to the possibilities of this work, and many of them now have trained librarians, part of whose duty it is to instruct the embryo teachers in the use of books and in simple methods of administering school libraries.

One of the problems that has attracted great attention during the last 15 years has been that of book selection. If the function of the library is the enrichment of life by bringing to all the persons in the community the books that belong to them, it is evident that a wise selection of the books in the library is most important in order that it may be equipped to meet all the needs of its varying constituents. The problem of book selection is distinctly the problem of the librarian, for the librarian alone is in contact with all the elements of the community; a selection made by any class of persons is sure to reflect the personal interests of that class, so that the tendency is more and more to give the librarian a free hand in this direction, the book committee of the board of trustees acting for the most part on lists prepared by the librarian. To aid the librarian, particularly of the smaller libraries, in a wise selection, two lists of books in model libraries have been compiled, 1893 and 1894, by the A. L. A. The New York state library publishes an annual bulletin of the best 500 or so books

of the year and the American Library Association prints a monthly annotated list of recommended books.

The range of interests to which the library appeals has increased enormously. Literature, history, with biography and travel, theology, made up the bulk of the contents of the older libraries. Libraries are now buying technical and industrial books of all sorts, books on the arts and crafts, books in foreign languages, not French and German alone, but Russian, Bohemian, Hungarian, Italian, for the foreign-born. Books in raised type are an important feature in many of the large libraries. The New York state library circulates them among the blind throughout that state.

When pressed to give a philosophical reason for all this activity we answer that the justification of the library rests in the last analysis on the same basis as that of the public school. The success of a democracy depends on the intelligence of the mass of its people. The schools begin the work of education, the library continues it through life, it is essentially the great democratic institution, knowing no limitations of age, condition or opinion, but offering to all freely knowledge, pleasure and inspiration.

Health Examinations in a Public Library

The public library trustees adopted a rule providing that in the future every young woman who passes the written examination for a position in the library must also, before admission to the library service, secure a certificate of good health from a physician. This certificate must be renewed at least once a year while the person remains connected with the library. It is hoped by this means to protect the women assistants from breakdowns of health, and at the same time to increase the efficiency of the staff.—*New York Sun*.

Some Essentials of Co-operative Cataloging*

Esther Crawford

The work of investigating and compiling in preparation for the third edition of Subject Headings has consumed 15 months of the editor's time. It would, indeed, be an uncalled-for expenditure, if the only result of the time and labor were a mere list of headings based on no clear vision of fundamental conditions and therefore no clear vision of fundamental principles for guidance in the formulating of codes to meet those conditions. Some points are not wholly clear yet; but a few large facts have been deeply impressed—sufficiently basic to warrant their consideration at this time.

Any scheme of coöperation which does not reckon on one hand with the practical usefulness of results at the point of contact with the reader and on the other hand with true economy of time to the catalogers is certain in the end to go to the wall. The system now in operation is a great advance on the old in matters of mechanical labor-saving to the catalogers; but it is weak at the point of contact with the reader—just where it is most vitally essential and where the test of efficiency is most true and searching.

The cause for this I attribute to the inherited tendency of our profession to keep our faces turned toward the book instead of toward the reader; to look toward the past instead of the future; to make ourselves obstructions in the stream of thought and tendency instead of aids to progress. We have held ourselves, therefore, in a position of hopeless struggle against what we have assumed to be a stream of ignorance, wearing ourselves out in vain endeavors to "educate" a benighted public. We have forgotten that the mighty forces of that cosmopolitan flood lie ages back in the springs of hunger and emotion; drawn invisibly toward the ocean of

*Read before Library association of D. C., March 18, 1908.

knowledge by the gravity of racial and individual experiences of good and of evil, and guided in its course by the shores of customs, conventions and laws which these primal forces have channeled by ceaseless beating of exploring waves against the solid facts of Nature. It is my purpose here to present some objective points for vision in the hope that they may reveal that it is the stream, not ourselves, which is moving—away from us.

The great objective point, dominating all others, is the reader—not the library, nor the book, not the librarian, nor the cataloger, nor the catalog. He it is for whom all the rest exists—the only excuse for their being. The next objective point is the message contained in the book—not the book itself, nor the librarian who finds it, not even the author who wrote that message, but the message itself, whether it be of hope or despair, of love or of hatred, of inspiration or of degradation, of power or of weakness. The delivery of the right message to the reader who needs it, at the time when he needs it, with the least cost of time, labor and money, and with the greatest sense of happiness to the reader—that is the ultimate end for which the library and all its force exists. To obstruct this result in any way by thrusting between the reader and the message a catalog which is to him unnecessarily time-consuming is to obstruct the very purposes of the library's existence. No system, however beautiful, will ever prove educative to a reader when it gets in his way. Catalogers, in defense of their practice, remark that "every mechanic has to learn how to use his tools before he can make anything with those tools." To which I reply that any mechanic who spends his time in working out the intricacies of a combination time-lock in order to learn how to make a button for his woodshed door is a fool. Most of us and our constituency are concerned with wooden buttons in actual life. A few rise to the dignity of a common latch; while still fewer

of us, through the accumulated virtues of our ancestors and the favoring grace of environment, are skilful enough to manipulate a Yale lock.

Really, isn't it just a trifle silly to waste so much good energy in constructing combination time-locks for the man whose whole life is concerned with a woodshed, or even a dwelling house, because there are a select few who own safety vaults and must have the skill to get access to them? And isn't the man of the woodshed and the home, after all, of as much necessity to the world's welfare as he of the safety vault?

I need not detail the history of the long struggle in the United States for an effective scheme for coöperative cataloging, culminating at last in the various sources for printed cards, of which Library of Congress stands at the head. By long years of patient effort on the part of that institution a system has been perfected which answers the material needs of Library of Congress and makes its cards available through purchase to all libraries that can use them to local advantage.

But likewise all over the country I find an undercurrent of discontent with these cards at the points of contact with the readers. Coupled with it is the feeling of loyalty to and recognition of the long years of effort in Washington which has made possible this embodiment of an ideal, and consequent hesitation to criticise or complain of results. The very weight of prestige which accompanies a national library, together with the championship of its overzealous friends out in the field, tend to hinder the scattered workers from understanding its true spirit—that it is extremely generous and conciliatory so far as its own life and needs will permit. The total result stands about like this: Library of Congress has conceded and adapted its forms of entry to such an extent that it is itself hampered in many ways in the free operation of results for its own constituency—not to speak of the open criticism

it meets from working specialists in various departments of the government service and criticism of its radical methods by foreign libraries that might consider the purchase of its cards but for these radicalisms. On the other hand, to the average public libraries in the United States, its forms of entry seem conservative, over-burdened with useless detail and taken up with information which proves a stone instead of bread to the reader and to the librarian serving the reader. Library of Congress cannot change and adapt to any greater extent and maintain its own symmetry for its own needs. The public libraries, having entirely different constituency bringing entirely different needs, or at least much less bibliographic needs, cannot understand the viewpoint of Library of Congress. Is it not pitiable that efficiency should be hindered because of our determined opinion that coöperation means identity—that libraries with such widely divergent needs can both use the same forms of entry and each find its peculiar needs satisfied thereby? It is a case of high-grade apparatus adapted to the industrial school—too much crippled to be of highest service to the research worker and too intricate and ponderous to be of use to any but the exceptional few among industrial workers.

Before any satisfactory method of co-operative cataloging can be devised for the libraries of the United States, there must be a clear understanding of conditions in those libraries—of those differences which are fundamental and those which are merely local or personal. The latter differences may be reconciled, but the former cannot. . . .

Oxford graduate and social worker in an inland town; English scholar and American clubwoman—what could better symbolize the ocean-wide difference between the two great forces which are making for the world's intellectual progress, or the too-frequent failure of the one to get the viewpoint of the other? The first force: The man who

works for research in the subject, who sails into its unknown and uncharted seas, investigates its shore lines, its channels of connection with other seas and its possibilities for sustaining life. The second force: The man who scatters knowledge of these discoveries among his workaday companions, who broadens their horizons, equips them to deal with their environment and so helps them to find their true places in the world.

To the first man—the discoverer—the subject is everything, the man nothing further than a well-regulated, keenly alert mechanism for the advancement of the subject. He is of the intellectual aristocracy, the select minority. He must, in the nature of things, be intensely alive to fine distinctions in fact and therefore in terms to express those facts. To the second man, the workaday translator, the man is everything, the subject nothing except a servant to man's comfort and happiness. He is of the unscholarly democracy, the uncultivated majority. The first man may be likened to a delicately balanced magnetic needle, the second to a crowbar. The one has required years of patient work to acquire just the right mental caliber and poise, sensitiveness to slight differentiations and consequent nicety of discernment, not to speak of his foundations in ages of inherited intellectual keenness. The other has been roughly and hastily ground and melted en masse from his matrix of ore and rudely molded into form without much thought of his uses for anything but primitive ends and the satisfying of primal needs.

It does not follow in all this that the magnetic needle is any more necessary to the general welfare of human life than the crowbar, or that the magnetic needle could be of any greater service for prying a girder into position than a crowbar would be for determining the position of a ship in midocean. Neither does it follow that the magnetic needle, by reason of its greater nicety of adjustment or even its appar-

ent affinity to a star, is thereby to be taken as authority on the question of how the crowbar may be made into a better crowbar. Indeed, the crowbar by very reason of its primitive quality of mere mass can wobble the needle from its path of rectitude and its reliability as a guide for international transit.

The men who compose the magnetic-needle group must, in the very nature of the case, know thoroughly the literature of their subject; and in doing so must of necessity learn how to get at that literature in the shortest possible way. They must study classification, cataloging and bibliography just as they would study mathematics or languages—as one of the absolute necessary tools of their profession. But the man of the crowbar group has no need whatever for knowing the literature of his subject in its historical lines. In its living, constructive lines he has but little time or strength or freshness of mind to study the more intricate or less familiar phases of a work at which he has been toiling for many hours of each day, especially if he is the head of a family. And, if he did so, it wouldn't increase his wages so rapidly nor so certainly as the more socially attractive force of his trade union.

It is also true that the rate of the investigator's progress depends upon the mental attitude and comprehension of his workaday brother as to the truth or value of that investigation. Just as soon as the investigator attempts to go at a pace which disregards the practical man, that man rises up in the mob-like fury of superstition or hatred or fanaticism and destroys the investigator and his work; or, in the more enlightened communities, he accomplishes the same result by refusing to contribute the necessary financial support for research.

The total result of these interactions and interdependence of the two classes is the development of an enormous middle class of inventors, technicians, teachers, librarians, etc. Their function

is either to demonstrate the usefulness of the scientist's and the scholar's researches by harnessing philosophy to fact, or by scattering such general touch-and-go acquaintance through schools and libraries that the great mass of the world's circumscribed human life can nevertheless project its imaginations sympathetically instead of hostilely toward the work of the scholar and the research worker.

Now, it often happens that the librarian of this great middle class forgets that his sole function is to devise and manage the ferry between these two groups and that the very reason for being of his ferry is the plethora of unembodied discoveries on one side and, on the other side, a desire to come into practical touch with these great life principles. Neither the librarian nor his books has had any part in the creating of that desire, nor can he have. The energy which impels the reader to books is not the book itself nor the librarian, and, least of all, the catalog, but the interests which have surrounded his daily life out in the world of work and of social intercourse and which he is for the moment trying to get some little light upon or respite from. His range of experiences is limited and his points of contact with the world of books, therefore, are correspondingly circumscribed. His wants are always and invariably for things of substance, things that touch his life and his experiences, for the actual message inside the book—not the external and physical makeup of the book. His chief business is with people and things; he has all too little time for any message to his mind or his heart and none at all for studying out our pet schemes of running our ferries.

The business of the ferryman is to translate the Latin of the scholar into the lingo of life. In the process of it, why insist upon inverting the result or concealing it under some unthought-of term just because his ferry-boat system is so beautiful for himself and his books and seems so good for all his

customers. Well, it might be good if his customers' needs were bookish needs, but they are not and never will be while these ferries exist. Neither is it the business of the ferryman to convert crowbars into magnetic needles nor to mourn because he can't; the world will see to that when it needs magnetic needles more than it needs crowbars.

The investigator's library must consist largely of data, while the public's library must consist almost entirely of conclusions and results of those data. The investigator is obliged to develop a terminology of his own which shall be a kind of scientific shorthand for communication with his co-laborers, and this is the legitimate language of the books in his library and the catalogs of those books. The public is concerned with earning his living and comes to books only occasionally and then for but brief snatches of recreation or for definite information along some line of daily work or social obligation. He wants the book phrased in the language and the simile of the life of the world with which he is more or less familiar. The investigator must be critical as to translators, editors, original works or adaptations, and exact information about editions involving often the minutiae of pagings, sizes, etc. The public is concerned only with knowing whether a given book tells what he wants to know about his one little subject. The investigator, from necessity, has had to classify his thoughts and his subject closely, and he naturally wants to find his tools in similar order. He has, of course, learned how to grasp quickly any scheme of systematizing and to find his way through the mere physical intricacies of any catalog or any book quickly and instinctively, as an Indian will find his way through a primeval forest. The public, on the other hand, rarely learns how to use a book to its full effectiveness, and does not use a card catalog often enough to remember from one time to the next that "dictionary"

arrangement means from two to five alphabets for the same word, or to recall that the President's messages are entered under United States instead of under Presidents or that Newman comes after New York. He has a reprehensible habit of reading newspapers and magazines, and somehow cannot understand why a library should take so much trouble to twist things about and to hide the everyday newspaper name under some outlandishly foreign or pedantic or technical word. He cannot understand why books should require a different lingo than life—his life.

The attempt to serve such divergent needs with uniform style of entry or items of information results in needless irritation, wasted energy and contempt or bewilderment for all parties concerned. The lines of cleavage are inherent in the very nature of things and should be faced as natural and inevitable phenomena of life. They are not to be deplored nor to be coerced into uncongenial union, for this calls forth only petty bickerings and personal animosities.

On one side of this natural cleavage stands the great majority of the public libraries of the country; on the other are ranged the university libraries, the specialists' libraries and those libraries which are so large and so rich in their collections as to be really international in their use—in other words, the circulating library and the reference library. The very possibilities of these largest libraries for international service and exchange of courtesies compel more or less conformity to foreign ideals and usages in order to make that interchange possible. We expect national institutions to act internationally in behalf of all the smaller, individual institutions; but to leave the latter free to adopt the machinery which best fits their less highly specialized or less complicated needs. A national library will have all it can do in caring for the specialists', the scholars' and the legislators' needs; and the libraries founded to serve these classes of patrons will welcome the care-

fully-worked-out cards which are now being furnished. On the other hand, the national printing plant, national franking service and the magnificently organized facilities for card distribution—are not these, rather than forms of entry, the most unmistakable resources for co-operation with the majority of our public libraries?

Is it not the truest economy that the A. L. A. should confine its activities to public libraries as a whole, leaving the National library unhampered to continue its work in the way best suited to the scholar and the specialist? Is it wise for the A. L. A. to continue a separate series of cards for which Library of Congress forms of entry could as well serve and which its printing and distribution plant are adequately equipped to handle? Is it wise for the A. L. A. to attempt the compilation of works which, by their very nature, can be of service only to a few very large libraries? Is there any wisdom in undertaking to compete with a great commercial house in the line of indexes?

The A. L. A. has a rich field all its own in recommending books for public libraries, securing adequate legislation for the distribution of those books, the best advice on the housing of books, and the most efficient methods of caring for and utilizing the contents of these books. There should be added to the field, as its most necessary asset, the financing of research work and experimentation so sadly needed for the basis of guides and codes. The individual successes of any one person or institution may be an admirable local guide, but can scarcely be a safe foundation on which to generalize for the peculiar needs of our widely separated and economically divergent national sections. Furthermore, why should the A. L. A. not assist in financing the instruction in library schools, in order that it may have the right to demand that these schools really do teach and train in the line of the approved findings and recommendations instead of chiefly their local theories and for local ends?

The A. L. A. has within sight for the ensuing year the two codes which are

necessary preliminaries for such coöperation—the rules for author entry and the list of subject headings. The latter necessarily will be slightly out of date even before it is published. With no stable and continuous center for testing, revising and enlarging, in five years' time it will lapse into as untrustworthy a guide as did the previous edition in the matter of new and changing subjects. It will come in a more disastrous way unless the A. L. A. follows up its new code with some consistent and steady effort to keep it up to date. A regularly employed editor of cataloging would make it his business to keep abreast of new subjects and the crystallizations in their terminology as well as changes and enlargements in old subjects. The results of these investigations would appear from time to time as supplements to lists and cumulations with the standard list. In addition the editor would make it his business to catalog all books recommended in the *Booklist* and such others as a sufficient number of coöperating public libraries could agree upon up to the limit of what could be done in the space of a reasonable day's work. This manuscript would serve as copy for the Library of Congress to use in a separate issue of cards. For these a previously guaranteed list of subscribers would be secured to cover expenses of printing, storage and distribution. These, as it appears to me, are the natural and possible lines along which coöperation can hope to work with reasonable harmony in the profession and with the double result of mechanical economy and power at the point of contact with the reader.

Is there not in this outlook a hope for coöperation without absolute uniformity, for preservation of local needs and characteristics without dissipation of central power in legislation, research and advice? Finally, if we could really comprehend that the cleavage is one of inherent difference in function instead of difference in values, there would be no room for personal feeling or misunderstandings.

Reminiscences of an Untrained Librarian

Ours had the distinction of being the worst library in the state. Now, in its regenerate condition, with a Carnegie building, a trained librarian, and all the other modern improvements (even a Board that reads library periodicals), it has exchanged distinction for efficiency, and become orthodox instead of interesting. There are a thousand like it, praise the Lord and Saint Andrew! but by that token its one glory, its bad eminence is lost forever. In the old days our library was worth a journey to see. In its description superlatives could not overshoot the mark. The barest statement of its condition was enough to fire the missionary spirit in any librarian breast. But the missionary spirit was regarded with suspicion by our Board. When an experienced organizer offered to put us to rights without money and without price, her offer was declined because, upon cross-examination, she was compelled to admit that her plan included changing the position of the books on the shelves. "That," said the President gravely, "would inconvenience the librarian. She knows just where the books are."

A year later, by the influence of prayer, politics and persuasion, two would-be missionaries secured the grant of a few months in which to demonstrate their theories, having first agreed to disturb nothing, and to present no bills. (The salary for the two was \$12.50 per month, janitor work included.)

The field of the enthusiasts' labor was uninspiring enough. The library occupied a doleful little storeroom near Main st. It was badly lighted, and inadequately heated, though including every zone of temperature in the space between the glowing stove and the frost-bound windows. The wall paper above the cheap shelves hung in cob-

webby strips. The shelves held as much dust as literature. The floor was partly covered with an ingenuous matting, that received the dirt and deposited it in a thick pad below. The first rough sweeping filled a bushel basket with dust. Ancient cheese-cloth curtains cringed at the windows. A case of stuffed animals and birds behind the stove scarcely added cheer. The only furniture was an elegant revolving chair for the librarian, and a high desk at which such books as could be found in the prevailing confusion had been charged and credited in a primitive ledger, in an exquisitely slow hand. There had been a wooden railing to shut the vulgar from the books, but an angel visit from a member of the State Commission the spring before had effected its removal. Still, its place had been fairly well supplied by the Presiding Ignorance. It is always possible to see over or through a railing, but when one is refused a perfectly visible book on the plea that it is a "duplicate" and can therefore not be spared, it is time to remember scriptural injunctions as to meekness and submissiveness of spirit.

After the cleaning of the room the new administrators set to work to learn the "position of the books on the shelves." The respect they felt for the mind that knew "just where" the books were soon amounted to awe. Nothing short of genius or the accident of birth and lifelong imprisonment within that dingy little room could, it seemed, have rendered possible so proud a boast. The original little nucleus had been reasonably if not scientifically classified, but as the years brought increase, the only method used in placing books was the naïve one of putting them on the shelves in the order in which they were taken from the packing boxes. The result was unique. I quote at random from the shelf-list, the making of which was our second great labor, if that can be rightly

called a labor, which brought hourly delight by the fresh absurdities it revealed:

Peck's bad boy, Forest of Arden, Icelandic fairy tales, Luck of Roaring Camp, Japan, Three men in a boat, Leaves and flowers, Lost in the Rockies, La vie d'une abeille, Vignettes of Manhattan, Pussy Meow, James Russell Lowell, To girls, Kit Carson, Thaxter's poems, The sandhill stag, Colonial children, Divina Commedia, the Ruling passion, Sheridan's memoirs.

On a neighboring shelf a geographical reader on Asia stood as number 2, between Paul Jones' life and Stephen Phillips' poems; while as number 7, flanked by the Strenuous life and Great pictures described by great writers, stood its companion-piece on Africa. A short distance away South America of the same series, huddled between Victorian poets and Two orphans. What system of mnemonics could have enabled any normal brain to master such associations?

Shelf-list, we had none, and the only accession book discoverable was rather of the memorandum order. But let anyone venture to say that we had no catalog! 1300 copies of it exist today to confute him, unless the present administration has looked upon them as possible fuel. There seems reason to think that they might be of value to collectors of library curiosities. In the 200 pages of the neatly bound volume there are 10 free from serious error. These 10 are Congressional records and the like and consist mainly of quotation marks. Every variety of technical mistake is present, and as for the blunders of ignorance, the humorous errors, a few examples will serve to suggest their nature and frequency: Under "Anon" are grouped two Rollos and one Gypsy Breynon, though their fellows are cozily gathered under their respective authors' heads. Pomona also looks lonely there. That well-known gentleman of letters, Lemuel Gulliver,

is given in bold-faced type credit for his book of Travels, though both Dean and Jonathan Swift find recognition in other parts of the catalog. In the list of Cooper's works, between the Last of the Mohicans and the Pilot, we found one entitled Thomas R. Lounsbury. In the D's was the entry Darthue Lemorte, and so on, ad infinitum. The spelling was certainly deformed, and the peculiarities of alphabeting so great that a book sometimes stood two pages from its proper place. Our edited copy of the catalog was soon as thick with marginal references as a Bible.

The assortment of books was, it is to be hoped, almost as unusual as the library's other features. Mrs Southworth's thrilling tales were all present in states of exhaustion indicative of overwhelming popularity. Augusta Evans Wilson and the well-loved Mary J. Holmes plainly had the book committee's password. One day a patron remarked to me that the library had improved a lot since he came to town. "When I first come here there wasn't one of Edna Lyall's books in the whole lot." There had certainly never been a time when the Elsie Dinsmore's were wanting. The shelf where the 21 v. of her found harborage during their brief sojourns with us was the first visited by most of our women patrons. We had, in desperation, to draw out five or six permanently, at discreet intervals down the line, for the only chance to foist something else off upon the readers was when the Elsie they wanted was out. The boys, having all the Alger and Castlemont output, with just 58 Henty's felt no unsatisfied desire. In our young hopefulness we persuaded one lad to try King Arthur, but his indignation when he brought it back truly alarmed us. "Don't you never give me no more of them old-fashioned kind of books. I want stories about poor boys that get rich quick." That was like the time

when we tried, in a spirit of experiment, to switch one of the older Henty devotees from his lifelong course. His wife usually got the book, saying that she couldn't read none, but it didn't matter, seein' as the old gent read to her evenin's. It was "fightin' stories" the old gent liked, "real excitin' ones." Our attempt to fill his order with some other writer than his favorite Henty (whose name he did not know) took the form of a Ralph Connor tale, stirring enough in all conscience, and we really wanted to find out whether he knew one book from another. He did. And his statement that such books might do for ministers but not for him was so concise and emphatic that we felt our zeal for experiments give way utterly.

If the library had been confined to this sort of literature, it would have been less distinctive. It held many books that one would be surprised to find in larger libraries in towns of the size. A whole set of Meredith set us speculating as to how it got there. Only Rhoda Fleming was ever read, but she had to be twice rebound. That deep-seated desire to read what other people have found worth wearing out was probably the cause. Ibsen and Maeterlinck found peaceful abiding places on our shelves. Mrs Meynell's essays hobnobbed oddly with a violent treatise on the evils of vaccination. *Obiter Dicta* and the History of Floyd county had stood side by side for undisturbed years. There were some fine old bindings, a few unusual books of reference, and some books valuable for age. This much should be said for the haphazard system of arrangement: It made our library a most noble one to browse in. In looking for a frivolous tale, one might meet an immortal. It had the advantage over the seven-day-shelf system in that the new was not assumed to be the desirable. When we inaugurated such a shelf with our first buying of books, we adopted the famil-

iar device of mingling with the new books some old but forgotten classics, and in that way Evelina enjoyed a fresh popularity alongside of Alice of Old Vincennes, and Jane Austen held her own in spite of best sellers.

The wretched condition of the library had lasted so long that those people who could beg, borrow or buy books never crossed its threshold, and that fact made our work much easier in some ways. Our clientele was so confiding and appreciative. Everything we undertook was greeted with interest and enthusiasm. As we had no possible space for a reading table and nothing but *The Western Publisher* and a *Christian Science Journal* to put on it, we took down the severe signs that had proclaimed silence in the four corners of the room, and encouraged conversation instead. Some of our best help came from the comments we heard. We found willing helpers on every hand, and as ours was volunteer work, we could ask for and accept assistance where the regular librarian dares not. There was a veritable library-bee in the little town that winter. A new picture bulletin became an event. The introduction of a wicker chair, comfortable though ancient, was more appreciated than a whole reading room sometimes is. A charging system, crude in the extreme, but still capable of getting a book out in less than five minutes, was the subject of admiring comment. And the school children were scarcely more frank in their interest in the pencil with the dating stamp attached than were their elders. A small purchase of German books brought a rich reward in gratitude and incident. The public, who had in the days of railings and silence signs been apologetic in its most modest relations with the library, began to wake up and feel its ownership. If that feeling took the form at times of bullying the librarian we could smile, for the feeling was what we

were trying to cultivate. And those rare instances were more than compensated for by the shy expressions of pleasure in the homelike air we contrived to give the room, and of gratitude for the suggestions we learned to make in the right quarters as to the reading of books.

We had, perhaps, more than the usual quota of amusing and pathetic happenings. As one of our attempts to get the "cultured" of the town to call upon the library, we had a series of small exhibits. One of them was book-plates, a collection borrowed from a library acquaintance a thousand miles away. (And here I must digress enough to say that one of the greatest pleasures of our brief connection with library work was the surprise of finding that we had entered a sisterhood of helpers. No favor asked of entire strangers was ever refused, and in every direction we found encouragement and sympathy from "sure-enough librarians.") We had advertised our exhibit of book-plates extensively, and on the day they were displayed, we felt, to good advantage. Imagine our embarrassment when one of our guests, after looking about for some minutes in silence, asked curtly: Where are the plates you said you was going to have here? It developed that she was expecting to see china.

We enjoyed to the full the opportunity afforded us of knowing the children. We had our habitués, who lingered after closing hours to discuss matters in general, as children will do with no older person so freely as with the librarian. They seem to find in her the remoteness desirable in a confidant, the wisdom even of a teacher, without the likelihood that she will turn and rend one on some future occasion. And that she is the right sort goes without saying, because she handles books. One of our most faithful studied deeply into the management of the library and finally said:

Well, I don't see how you make it pay. Always buying books and not chargin' for cards, and fines only a cent a day!

We asked one little girl, who had read almost all of the fiction available, and had come back at last to her starting point, the Elsie, why she liked them so much, and were told with shuddering rapture that it was because there were so many punishments in them. We had the unusual duty of assuaging the grief of a lad who had just found out about Joan of Arc's execution, and was suffering greatly therefrom. We learned to know intimately one little red-headed fellow, whose conversation revealed a wide reading, but whose garments indicated anything but a wealthy home. We learned that his father traveled summers in a kind of car, and gave shows. Winters, he stopped at any convenient spot, converted the car into a shop, and waited for spring, devoting himself to selling and buying secondhand goods in the meantime. The first act of the son and heir was to swear himself a resident and "take books." In our inexperience we even found delight in the endeavors of the lads to get their cards filled "the first." We liked the independence of the babe who chose for himself and whose principle of choice was size. He took Belisarius one day and a Little Gem dictionary the next. And our hearts rejoiced in the maiden who always took a book she thought she wouldn't like, because the ones she thought she would like she never did!

The high school commencement season fell during our term of office. Our lamps were shaded in the colors of the rival classes, and our alcoves were the scene of thrilling committee meetings. But our chief interest was in the struggles of the graduates to find "material" on their oration subjects. I am going to write on Woman. Please, how shall I begin? came to us

one day. And another: Is there anything in the library on Civilization? And more staggering still: My subject is the Past, the present and the future. Is there anything in the library on it? Our spirit of reform felt the field as rich in possibilities, but when one teacher asked for "books with pieces in," and said further that he did not want either poetry or prose, as he thought those were beyond high school pupils; and when another instructor of youth and literature discovered radiantly in "a red book, the Anthropology, or something like that," a fine book for "speaking"; and when we found another teacher reading Alger aloud to her school "because the boys like it," we felt that sufficient to the reformer is the field at his feet, and abandoned our budding purposes.

No library reminiscence is complete without a few of the laughable mistakes made in asking for books. "Some-thin' of Mr. Holes" proved to be a request for the works of that gentleman, whose other names are William and Dean. "The wail of the sandal swag" and "The tail of the, Sandhill buck" were variations on one well-loved title. When we could not make anything of the word given us, we invariably handed out "Les Misérables," and usually gave satisfaction in doing so. "A book about ministers in distress" is still a mystery to us; and we scarcely believed our senses when we found that "Common weather" was Bryce's American commonwealth.

Nowadays the pioneer instinct does not often find a legitimate chance of expression. Everything around is so civilized. But there must still be forgotten corners of the United States where the Dewey system is as unheard of as it was here, where the best-informed person in town spoke of classifying the library on cards, where state commissions have not yet done their glorious work, and where "the best place to economize is in the li-

brarian's salary, for anybody can give out the books and set down the numbers," and the blasé worker, who wants new experience in small compass, and is wishful to work where results may be seen, and where the librarian is not a part of a highly organized machine, but an individual as respected as a conjurer, should take her rubber stamp in her hand, her library handbook in her pocket and set forth to seek them out. She will be rewarded more richly than she dreams.

List of Novels for Students

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

A list of 100 of the best novels, English and American, has been recently issued by the library of University of Illinois, to be distributed among the students of the university to encourage their reading of good novels.

We have printed this list and distributed it among the students and at the same time we have placed two copies of each of the volumes on open shelves in the rotunda of the library.

The result of this publicity has been that out of 202 v. available, there were left within a week only 25, and the number remains about the same, though the volumes themselves change by reason of withdrawal and returning of the books. We are more than pleased with the success of this venture and are encouraged to compile other lists in continuation of this endeavor. We have in mind for future issue a list of foreign novels in translation.

F. K. W. DRURY,
Acting librarian.

Additional Dumas Material

As a supplement to the list of Dumas series by Elfrida Everhart, which appears in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, May, 1908, I submit the following reference:

Davidson, Arthur E. Alexandre Dumas (Père), his life and works. Philadelphia. Lippincott, 1902, p. 386-413.

The appendix gives a list of Dumas' works arranged as follows:

A) Drama—arranged in order of representation; title, description, theater and date of production, notes.

B) Fiction (novels and stories) alphabetically arranged; title, date of original publication and notes.

C) Historical works arranged in chronological order; title, date of first publication and notes.

D) Books of travel (1) Those which form series. (2) Isolated books.

E) Miscellaneous works (critical, biographical and various), alphabetically arranged.

F) Historical novels in sequence of time, with indication of those which form series.

Trusting that this will be of use to others as it has been to me a great number of times. GEO. G. CHAMPLIN.

New York state library.

Lower Norfolk County Antiquary

I desire to give notice through PUBLIC LIBRARIES that I shall be glad to endeavor to supply No. 4, Vol 5 and the index to Vol. 5 of the *Lower Norfolk County Antiquary* to any library which was in the habit of receiving that periodical from Mr James.

Edward Wilson James, the editor and publisher of that local historical and genealogical journal, died a little over a year ago and, of course, its publication has ceased.

He published it entirely for his own delectation (and that of his friends), refusing either to take subscriptions or sell copies.

His unfortunate death occurred suddenly, just about the time when he received No. 4, Vol. 5 from the printer and, in consequence, he was unable to distribute these copies to his friends.

WM. HENRY SARGENT, Librarian.
Norfolk (Va.) public library.

Sunday School Libraries

Dear PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It was with pleasure I read in your March number that the Sunday schools

of Cadillac, Mich., had turned their libraries over to the Public library of that city.

It has long been a matter of surprise to me that churches should continue to maintain such libraries in cities where public libraries exist, and in many instances are in need of additional books which, owing to inadequate funds, they are unable to procure.

While the Sunday school library was no doubt an excellent institution in the days before the advent of the public library, it would seem that its day of usefulness is now over and the energy and means that are expended upon it might well be diverted into another channel of usefulness.

The books in these libraries are as a rule duplicates of those found on the shelves of the public library, where they may be borrowed any day of the week. In most public libraries the "open shelf" system obtains, and the borrower has an opportunity of examining at his leisure before making a selection.

The books are fully cataloged and there is a library worker at hand to render any assistance that may be necessary in finding books upon particular subjects.

Indeed, it can scarcely be hoped that the privilege of borrowing a book will attract children to the Sunday school when the innumerable opportunities and facilities offered to this end by the public library are considered. If the argument be urged that the church libraries contain books of special interest to their members, there seems no reason why they should not as well obtain them from the public library and give others who might desire to make investigation an opportunity of doing so. If there is good to be had let us by all means make it available to all.

I for one should be glad to see the example of the churches of Cadillac followed by those of every small city possessing a public library.

MRS ANNA C. BRONSKY.
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Amending the A. L. A. Constitution

If the present constitution does not give the executive board authority to appoint a paid executive officer, it should be amended so as to allow it.

Official nominations should be posted a longer time before the election, giving at least 48 hours for nominations by members.

A serious evil is the preponderance at each conference of new, local membership. Voting should be limited to those members who have joined the association previous to January 1 of the year in which the conference is held and whose dues for the current year are paid at least one month previous to the opening of the conference.

GARDNER M. JONES.

A report should be made in print to each member of the association one month at least before the date of the annual conference as to the action of the nominating committee, as no sufficient time can be given to a wise and careful selection of opposing candidates during the few hours between the posting of the official ballot and the time within which the constitution provides independent nominations must reach the council. It is absolutely unjust and undemocratic to cry "politics" and "electioneering" when members of the A. L. A., whose interest in the association is just as sincere and as deep seated as is that of members of the council, make use of their constitutional right to place an independent ticket in the field.

MEMBER.

It seems to me that most of the difficulties and lapses in management come from certain conditions:

- 1) A lack of continuity in policy, caused by the constantly changing *personnel* of the managing body.

- 2) The divided, and possibly clashing, authority, arising from the delegation of powers not clearly defined to two governing bodies.

- 3) A lack of a sense of responsibility to the Association itself on the part of the governing bodies, caused by the manner of nomination.

I would suggest as possible remedies:

- 1) The recalling of all deciding power from the council. If the council, in a possibly altered form, be retained, let it be with committee powers only; i. e., power to report and recommend action to the association or questions referred to the council by the association.

- 2) That the executive management of the association be delegated to a board of directors, somewhat larger than the present Executive board, formed in part by the officers of the association (six, dropping the recorder or one vice-president) and in part by six elected members, two of whom shall retire each year.

- 3) Nominations to be made by a small nominating committee of not more than five (preferably three), appointed by the president each year.

MRS H. L. ELMENDORF.

Ottawa's Invitation to the A. L. A.

A letter from Mr Burpee, of Ottawa, states that owing to various causes, the delay in building the Grand Trunk hotel has been so great that it will not be possible to have it finished in time for the meeting of the A. L. A. in 1909.

Inasmuch as the Council expressed its doubts of the sufficiency of the present hotel accommodations when the invitation was extended at Asheville last year, and as the conditions are but little changed since then, it has been deemed best to extend the invitation to the A. L. A. to hold its meeting in Ottawa in 1910 instead of 1909. The library authorities want above all things to have the A. L. A. carry away with them from Ottawa, pleasant recollections, not only of the helpfulness of the meeting, but of the personal comfort afforded during their stay.

There can be no question of this when the new hotel is finished, of which there is no doubt for 1910. When the Grand Trunk hotel is finished it will rival any hotel in Canada.

On February 26, F. Richmond Fletcher, chief of the department of accounts, Library Bureau, Boston, presented a most comprehensive address on The commercial development of the library card catalog, before the New York library school, in which he traced the development of the card system as a factor in commercial records and accounts, from the first conception of the utility of cards for library catalogs. Mr Fletcher showed the innumerable ways in which economy, system and satisfaction are introduced into business of every kind, institutions of many varieties and, indeed, into every line of activity where any record work is necessary, by the use of cards.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Library Bureau | - - - - - | Publishers |
| M. E. AHERN | - - - - - | Editor |
| Subscription | - - - - - | \$1 a year |
| Five copies to one library | - - | \$4 a year |
| Single number | - - | 20 cents |
| Foreign subscriptions | - - | \$1.35 a year |

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

Concerning catalogs—The article on Some essentials of coöperative cataloging, by Miss Crawford, to be found on another page, deserves careful consideration by librarians of every degree.

While perhaps some may not agree with Miss Crawford as to the natural line of cleavage between cataloging for public libraries and for special collections, there is undoubtedly a large amount of truth in the conditions as she points them out. Miss Crawford has spent considerable time interviewing people, both scholars and ordinary readers, in front of card catalog cases. In addition, she has gone into the matter thoroughly with all classes of people, both those who use public and reference libraries and those who may be said not to use libraries at all, for one or another reason, though not from lack of appreciation of them or ability to do so. Men in various lines of activity, have talked freely to her of their own attitude toward public library machinery and particularly the card catalog, as it is found in the majority of public libraries at the present time.

The cataloging section of the A. L. A. and Committee on catalog rules will do well to consider the points made by Miss Crawford in reaching their final

conclusions as to a code for universal adoption.

It might not be out of place for the A. L. A. to consider seriously Miss Crawford's suggestion in regard to a field editor. The question of finances would weigh heavily in such a consideration. Here is a situation, however, that ought to appeal to Mr Carnegie as a necessary corollary to his past benefactions if the wants which he has been the means of creating in advance of the present power of the A. L. A. to satisfy are to be met at the right time. That time is now, when the newer libraries are in a beginning stage and most in need of the right thing for the basis of their future development. If Mr Carnegie endows research bureaus and experimental laboratories for the natural sciences which he did not stimulate to activity in advance of their resources, why should he not endow like bureaus and laboratories (field investigation) to serve as guides for an activity which he has called into being ahead of the adequate financial resources for its proper maintenance?

Access to museum material—It would seem a proper thing that librarians, particularly in centers having considerable collections in art and museum material, should welcome, and heartily second, the work of Sir Casper Purdon Clarke. Sir Casper was brought from the South Kensington museum in London to direct the affairs of the great Metropolitan museum in New York and is making every effort to render more useful the collections referred to, by giving freer access and wider opportunities for use of these valuable collections.

The idea of close confinement of material is rapidly dying out in public li-

braries, because long ago librarians saw the futility of trying to work under closed conditions. They are, therefore, prepared more than others, perhaps, to second all efforts that are made to circulate museum and art material for educational purposes, since they can furnish out of their own experience and observation definite results in the betterment of the intellectual life of the community by a free use of the books on the library shelves. Instances might be cited where vast collections in public museums are sentenced to solitary confinement to which access may be had only by unrolling innumerable yards of red tape and by paying an entrance fee, this latter often being a hardship to the very people who would most appreciate and profit by the use of the material. While in no way advocating a loose or careless granting of privileges or handling of material, it may be urged that a great reform in the matter of freer access to museum and art material may be allowed by those in authority where the institution is a public one, without in any way lessening the value of the collection or disturbing the system under which it is arranged.

Sir Casper is hoping for the time when the Metropolitan museum will be able to do in an educational way what the State library of New York is doing, sending out from its store, collections to be used for educational purposes. It is to be hoped that he will realize his purpose at no very distant date.

A feature of library work in Ontario—
A feature of library extension that is worthy of commendation is that recently begun by the Department of education of Ontario. With a view of cultivating among young people the reading of a better class of literature,

the department has decided to establish children's branches in connection with the various public libraries throughout the province. The public libraries of Ontario have been divided into groups based on the work that is done by them, for the purpose of distributing grants of money for development.

Special interest is taken in the work that the libraries do for children and for young persons. The Department of education of Ontario has appointed an organizer of children's work, who will visit various libraries for the purpose of inaugurating work of various kinds for the children. This organizer will be provided with traveling libraries for children, collections of pictures and other library attractions for young people. Where the library has made no special provision for children, the organizer is expected to open a children's department by collecting in one place in the library all the material suitable for work with children, talking to the young people about books and instructing someone to carry it on after her departure.

There is material here for reflection on the part of library authorities in the United States. The commissions have done work along different lines which perhaps will bring the same results, and the interest has been of a general character, affording help for all classes of readers. As to the educational departments in the various states, a few of them have considered their duty done when they have compiled and issued lists of books for the school libraries of the state, based oftentimes on their own predilections, rather than on an actual knowledge of conditions where the books are to be used. The coöperation that exists in a few places between the state library commissions and the state department of public instruction, such for instance as is carried on in Oregon and Wisconsin, is notable, but it is far too infrequent as a general thing to provide systematic and

economical administration of library extension along educational lines. It may be called a waste of money, energy and opportunity for these two authorities to duplicate effort, when, by common consent, the work could be satisfactorily cared for by one or the other.

A curious phase of library development in Ontario is the tremendous interest which the library trustees take in the development of library technique. It is a question, however, if this is not an individual characteristic due to the personality of the men composing the library boards. A few librarians are to be found conducting library extension both in the libraries and in the library associations, but the majority of the active workers are library trustees. It would be a very desirable thing to inoculate many of the library trustees on this side of the line with a germ of the interest that is manifested by the library trustees of Ontario.

On the other hand, more librarians that can make themselves felt ought to be present in the conduct of affairs in the Ontario library association.

Library Reading Course

Definitions are of the utmost importance in the consideration of any subject where there is likely to be confusion in the use of terms. This need is evident when librarians discuss such every-day topics as books and literature.

Are all books literature? Wherein do librarians need to discriminate in the use of these terms? Do we deliberately include books in our public collections that are not literature? Are there two standards of judging or evaluating these?

It would probably stimulate our thought to go to the dictionary and carefully read the definitions given for these two words, "book" and "literature." If we find it necessary to evaluate books

broadly in order to at least judge as to whether they are literature, then in making such a decision, we must be able to define, to our own satisfaction, what literature really is. In connection with the Library Reading Course, some reading along this line is very desirable at this time, and librarians are referred to that helpful book by C. T. Winchester, which every librarian should own, entitled, *Some principles of literary criticism* for the chapter entitled, *What is literature?* If we are seeking for principles on which to base our decisions as to the desirability or undesirability of certain books for our libraries, this chapter will help.

In connection with the preliminary reading on Book selection at the Wisconsin library school, the Preceptor, Miss Hazeltine, has prepared the following reference list, which she has contributed to the Reading Course:

Adams, C. F.—Problem of the small library. *L. J.* 29:365-7 (July, 1904).

Bostwick, A. E.—How libraries choose books. *P. L.* 8:137-41 (April, 1903).

Cutter, C. A.—Should libraries buy only the best books or the best books that people will read? *L. J.* 26:70-2 (February, 1901).

Foster, W. E.—Where ought emphasis to be placed on library purchases? *L. J.* 29:229-37 (May, 1904).

Wise, G. E.—How should a librarian read? *L. J.* 20:C 16-19 (December, 1905).

For this introductory work we use also Counsel for the reading of books, which Prof. Moulton has recommended so strongly.

During the year, *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* has had various helpful and suggestive articles on books in different classes, that we are using, or shall use. Among these are two recent articles on municipal problems as related to the library that are suggestive:

Darlow, Gertrude.—The municipal section of a public library. *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* 13:4-6.

Hadley, C. R.—Municipal reference work in public libraries. *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* 12:232-234.

The March (1908) number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* is admirable for technical books, and should not be overlooked when considering these important books.

ALICE S. TYLER.

For the League of Library Commissions.

Reading for June

Theme—Distinctive functions of special libraries. Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress has advanced in size until it is third in the list of large libraries. There is small reason, if any, why it should bear the name it does, since it has long since extended its usefulness far beyond the demands of Congress, both departments of which have reference collections which largely supply their needs. A much more fitting name would be the National library, since the greater part of its effectiveness is extended to the country at large.

Every variety of literary work is a debtor to this great collection. It has largely increased, not only in size, but in character of material, usefulness and arrangement since moving into the new building. Under the present administration of its affairs it is filling a larger field of important work of various kinds perhaps than any library extant. It is not only gathering a large amount of valuable material for students of every class, but it is making its contents available in the library and for other institutions remote from the Capital. Its bibliographical work in every department, its reproduction of valuable historical material, its contributions to library economy, the organization of its material and its systematic administration, make it an institution of national import and a peculiarly valuable asset in the library movement in America.

In reviewing these and other phases of the activities of Library of Congress, one is suddenly startled by the thought that at an instance of political selfishness of sufficient degree, the present work might be sadly crippled if, indeed, it were not undone. For this reason librarians should study the history, scope, activities, relations and prospects of the institution with a view of being useful, if possible, in changing at no distant period, both the name and governance of the Library of Congress so that it shall be

as regards both, a National library in all that term implies.

The following publications, to be had from Library of Congress, should be carefully studied:

The Library of Congress and its work.

Publications issued since 1897.

Rules and practice governing the use and issue of books.

Library of Congress. A. L. A. Proceedings, p. 27-34. Portland, 1905.

The reports of the library for 1901 with its manual included and for 1907, containing full reports of the various activities, are also recommended.

The Acme of Co-operation

The libraries of this country have co-operated in cataloguing, in the preparation of indexes, and in many other ways. Is it not time that we took up the most important feature of library work, the selection and acquisition of books?

It is true that the *A. L. A. Booklist* is doing a good work in criticizing current literature for the smaller libraries. It is true that the Bookbuying committee and the Bookbinding committee are giving us all advice on the details of these matters. But is it not time that something be done to organize the librarians into a business organization which shall actually buy the books co-operatively?

There are manifold difficulties in the way. I remember well the difficulties in the way of the plan for the distribution of printed cards, and the doubts expressed as to the success of any scheme for that distribution. Yet those difficulties were surmounted, and the Library of Congress is selling yearly many thousand cards.

The chief difficulty in the way of co-operative purchasing lies in the apathy among the libraries to any suggestion that will save them money. This is shown by the reports from those publishers who have issued books in spe-

cial library bindings. It is shown by the few replies made to inquiries from the Bookbinding committee and the Bookbuying committee.

The men who sell us our books are organized, having an agreement to fix the prices at which we shall buy books. They print their books on wretched paper, place them in poor bindings, and sell them to us at their own price. Does anyone think for a moment that the libraries of this country cannot remedy this if they take the matter into their own hands?

A central purchasing agency could save in a short time all its cost in the mere discounts on subscription books. It could save the uninformed, isolated librarian probably 30 per cent of the money spent. It could force the publisher to use decent paper, put on a decent binding, and sell to libraries at a decent price. It could detect such frauds as the issue of Hichens' latest book (*Barbary Sheep*).

I do not argue for volunteer work. It is worth usually just what it costs. I recommend rather a well-paid agent, one who knows the book trade, is fearless and unpurchasable. Such an agent should be paid a commission on actual cost. Such an agent, with a pledged clientele, could dictate terms to the seller. Now the seller dictates terms to the buyer, an anomaly not known in any other business.

I am willing to pledge this library, which buys largely, to buy all recent books through such an agent for a limited trial period.

Lest there be some misunderstanding; I may say that I am not looking for the job of purchasing agent, and have no person in mind.

The Library association of Great Britain has this matter under consideration. Will the American librarians not coöperate with them to beat the book trust?

W. P. CUTTER,

Forbes librarian.

Northampton, Mass.

Public Documents in France

An American scholar, member of the faculty of one of the western State universities, who is spending a year in Paris, writes in a very interesting way concerning publication by the French government—what would be called, with us, "Pub. Docs." Of these he says:

The *Journal Officiel* is not to be had otherwise than by subscription or purchase. The embassy subscribes for its copy. The rates of subscription are given, I believe, in the catalogs of Roustan. The complete edition is 40 francs per year for France, I think; more for countries of the postal union.

The reports of commissions, and all similar publications of the chamber and senate, are published in just enough copies to supply the members of those bodies. They can almost always be supplied by certain booksellers, especially Roustan, who take over copies of members who are willing to part with them, always numerous enough. Aside from the matter of economy, M. Vignaux said, the edition printed is thus limited because there is no interest among the public in such publications, and no demand for them.

The yellow books are in essentially the same situation. Besides the members of the two houses, the embassies are supplied with three copies each; one for reference and preservation at the embassy, and two for the home government. Recently a senator (of the United States) wished to inform himself fully on the Moroccan question, and applied to the embassy for a copy of the yellow book recently issued. Answer had been made that there were no more copies.

The contrast that this offers with the American way of dealing with such things being mentioned, M. Vignaux said that it was partly a reflection of the lack of public interest in the doings of parliament, of which a further sign might be seen in the small demand for cards of admission to the gallery of the Chamber of Deputies. The French officials are continually surprised at the requests made by our embassy for such cards. They don't see why anyone should want to go, aside from special personal interests, perhaps, sometimes. The embassy receives no cards except upon its specific request.

This was very interesting to me, and partly new. It helped to interpret the discussion that I catch echoes of in the papers on the "Critical situation of parliamentarism"—*la crise du parlementarisme*. There must be some reality behind so much grave and expert consultation—and the gravest and most expert are taking part in the inquest.

As for reports coming from other depart-

ments, as public instruction, etc., they may be had on request, through the bureau of exchanges, the Smithsonian institution making the request on behalf of an American inquirer.

Civic Improvement

The Civic improvement league committee of St. Joseph, Mo., is in the habit of offering prizes for the best gardens, flower and vegetable, arranged and cared for by the children of that city. The Public library is in constant touch with their work, and each year places at the disposal of the workers such material in their library as would seem to be of help. A list of books about gardening in the public library is sent to the schools and posted where the children will see it and printed in the newspapers. The list for 1908 is as follows:

Books about gardening

- Allen—Bulbs and tuberous rooted plants. 1893.—716.2 A.
 Arnotts—Book of climbing plants and wall shrubs. 1903.—716 A.
 Bailey—Garden making; suggestions. 1907.—710 B15.
 Bennet—Flower garden; a handbook of practical garden lore. 1903.—716 B2.
 Cecil—Children's gardens. 1902.—J716 C1.
 Darey—Tree doctor.—634.9 D27.
 Duncan—Mary's garden and how it grew. 1904.—J716.2 D.
 Elliot—A plea for hardy plants for effective arrangement. 1902.—716 E65.
 Ely—Another hardy garden. 1905.—716 E1.
 Hunn—Amateur's practical garden book. 1900.—716 H1.
 Miller—How to make a flower garden; a manual of practical information and suggestions. 1903.—716 M.
 Nicholson—Ed., Illustrated dictionary of gardening; a practical and scientific garden of horticulture for gardeners and botanists. *716 M.
 Paine—A little garden calendar for boys and girls. 1905.—J635 P16.
 Pearson—A book of garden pests. 1908.—632 P31.
 Rexford—Four seasons in the garden. 1907.—716 R32.
 Sewell—Commonsense gardens; how to plan and plant them. 1906.—716 S.
 Shelton—Seasons in a flower garden; a handbook of information and instructions for amateurs. 1906.—716.2 Sh4.

Report on New Books

A. L. A. committee on book-buying

The Book-buying committee of the American library association has determined from time to time to issue reports upon new books and editions submitted to it, and which it can warmly recommend for purchase by libraries. The first of these reports we give herewith.

BERNARD C. STEINER,
 Acting chairman.

The life of Alice Freeman Palmer, by George Herbert Palmer. D. 349 p. \$1.50 net. Houghton, Mifflin Co. 1908.

This is a remarkably fine work, and is considered by the committee one of the most readable and delightful biographies ever read by its members. The author was the husband of the subject of the book, whose career was an important one, not only as president of Wellesley college, and dean of women of Chicago university, but also as an important factor in the administration of various women's educational and benevolent associations. The book is written in the best possible taste and is constructed skilfully. The style is attractive, and the book may be warmly recommended to public libraries for purchase. The price is fair. The binder's report on an uncased copy is that the paper stock is sufficiently good. The sewing is by machine and is not strong enough for books subject to much use. The plates are correctly folded around the signatures and are not tipped in, so that they are not likely to be lost, and the adjoining leaves are saved from any stress.

Reade, Charles. Love me little, love me long. Doubleday, Page & Co. Large Print library. No. 17. \$1.50. O. 526 p.

The publishers advertise the features of this library, of which the book above named is the first volume, as follows: "Readable Scotch-face type, high-grade paper and dignified buckram, library binding (with stamped label which won't come off, silk head band, muslin casing, and extra sewing on tapes suggested by the A. L. A. committee on bookbinding)." The book justifies these praises and is an edition warmly to be recommended for purchase by all public libraries. The binding is especially strong and the typography is excellent. There is a good biographical introduction and adequate bibliography of the author.

A Library Institute for Illinois

A library institute will be held at the Public library of Centralia, Ill., June 9-10, under the auspices of the Illinois library association.

This will be the first library institute held so far south in the state, and librarians, library trustees and all others interested in library development are earnestly requested to be present and take part in the discussions that will be held.

There will be three sessions. On the afternoon of Tuesday, June 9, a round-table for librarians will be held, devoted to the discussion of books. Book selection, book distribution, book buying and book repairing will be considered. At four o'clock the relation of the public library to public schools and the relation of the public library to study clubs and other organizations will be discussed. Teachers and club members are invited to join in this discussion. In the evening an address on State supervision of library extension will be presented by Chalmers R. Hadley. As the purpose of this meeting is to interest the public in Illinois' needs along this line, an earnest invitation is extended to the public generally to be present.

On Wednesday morning library administration for small libraries will be considered in a round-table specially for librarians.

Invitation to be present has been extended to the following towns: Olney, Effingham, Shelbyville, Taylorville, Carlinville, Litchfield, Hillsboro, Bunker Hill, Jerseyville, Carrollton, Alton, Edwardsville, East St Louis, Belleville, Chester, Carbondale, Cairo, Pana, Metropolis, Flora, Vienna and Mt Vernon. The cordial coöperation of everyone interested is earnestly requested.

Celia M. Miles, librarian of Centralia public library, is secretary of the Institute, and will be glad to answer any inquiries regarding it.

MARY EILEEN AIERN, Pres.

A. L. A. Notes

As was noted in the May number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, the time of holding the A. L. A. meeting at Minnetonka has been changed to June 22-27, and the time of the trip to the Copper country (see *P. L.* p.136), as well as the other post-conferences, to June 27-July 4.

Some of the principal points to be kept in mind regarding this meeting, as set out in the April number, are repeated here.

All arrangements concerning rooms will be made by Miss Countryman of the Minneapolis public library.

All questions concerning travel from all eastern points will be answered by F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis st., Fenway, Boston.

Charles H. Brown, John Crerar library, Chicago, will answer all questions regarding travel from all central, northwest and southwest points.

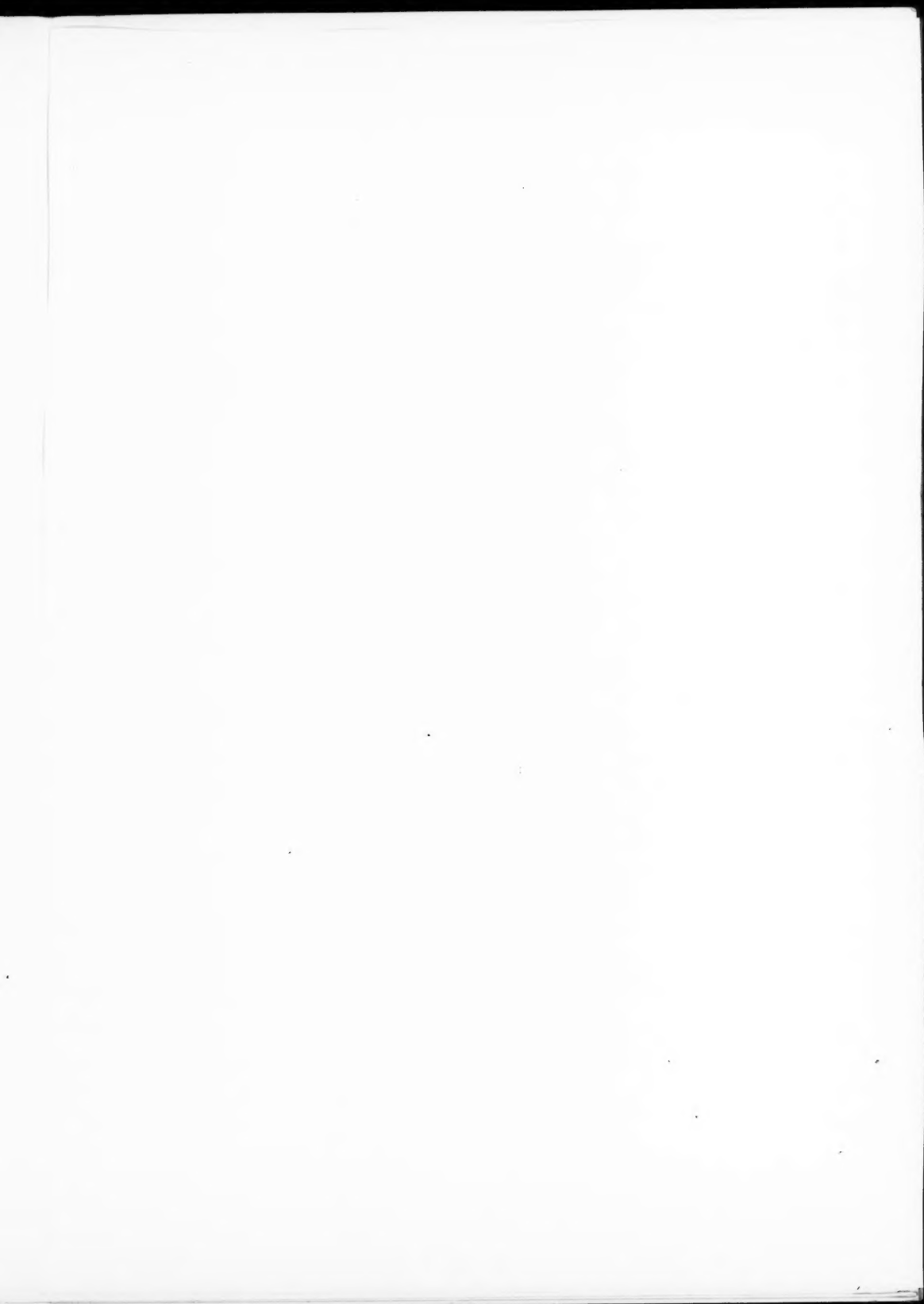
Remittances to cover sleepers should be sent to those in charge of travel arrangements before June 10.

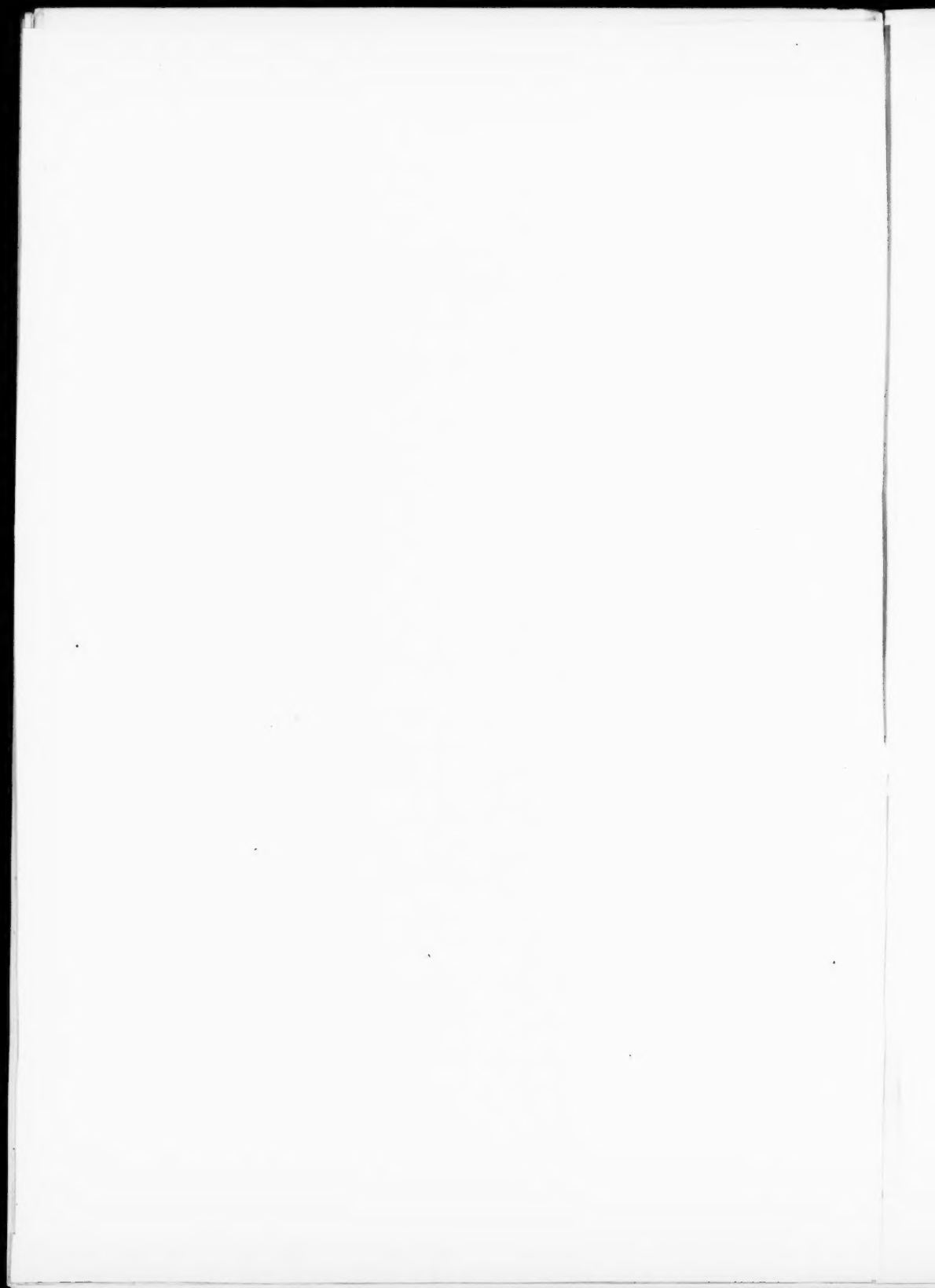
H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, will answer questions regarding, and book members for, the Beech Lake conference trip.

Pacific Coast—Special railroad rates for the season of 1908, from points on the Pacific Coast to Minneapolis, will be granted. These tickets are good returning for 90 days and liberal stop-over privileges are allowed.

The usual conference rates will not be allowed this year, but the regular fare is almost the same as the former concession. As only going tickets need be bought on the starting, there will be none of the troublesome restrictions as to route and time of the returning trip. Regular summer tourists' round trip tickets to Tonka Bay will be on sale after June 1, and offer a saving. This saving is offset, however, by party tickets.

East—All those who wish to join any of the eastern parties should arrange with Mr Faxon to use a party ticket. The eastern party will leave Boston on June 19, 10:30 a. m.; New York, June 19, 12:55 p. m.; Albany, June 19, 4:35





p. m.; Buffalo, June 19, 11:25 p. m.; Toledo, June 20, 6:40 a. m., arriving in Chicago, June 20, 12:50 p. m. Leave Chicago, June 20, 6:30 p. m., arriving in Minneapolis, June 21, 7:45 a. m. Electric cars will take the party direct to Tonka Bay hotel. Booking for this party must be made before June 10.

Central—To include all from Chicago, from southeastern and southwestern and central points who go through Chicago to Minneapolis. A special train will leave Chicago, June 20, 6:30 p. m., arriving in Minneapolis, 7:45 a. m., where electric cars will take the party direct to Tonka Bay hotel.

The train runs over the C., M. & St P. Ry., from Chicago (see p. 222.) Those who wish to join this party should send name and reservation for sleeper to Charles H. Brown, John Crerar library, Chicago, before June 10. Those unable to join this party on Saturday night, may have reservation secured on the Pioneer Limited for Sunday, June 21, by making arrangement before June 10 with C. H. Brown. A special car will be provided if enough apply.

In order to cooperate with the A. L. A. travel committee the local committee has arranged to have special trolley cars in waiting at the railroad stations whenever any large party is expected, and baggage will be transferred from the train to the hotel without any inconvenience. Baggage should be checked to Minneapolis. Agents for Matson Transfer Company will recheck baggage to any hotel at Lake Minnetonka and delivery is promised within two hours. The transfer charge is 25 cents.

Program

Some changes have been made in the program as scheduled in the April number of **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**. But only such as were necessitated by the change of time. Definite information will be given in the regular program to be issued before the meeting.

The A. L. A. committee on public documents has arranged for a round-table at the Minnetonka meeting on

the morning of Tuesday, June 23. The round-table is intended for the benefit of those librarians who are interested in the distribution of government documents, in the best ways and means of popularizing the documents, etc. The superintendent of documents will be present. It is hoped to make the discussions as immediately profitable to those present as possible.

Hotel arrangements at Minnetonka

The local committee of the Minnetonka A. L. A. conference make the following preliminary announcement concerning hotels and rooms:

1) Tonka Bay hotel.

This hotel will be headquarters hotel. It is about 200 feet from the pavilion on the lake shore where the meetings will be held. It will accommodate about 250 people at the following rates:

Two in a room.....\$2.50 per day
One in a room..... 3.00 per day
Two in a room, with bath. 3.00 per day
One in a room, with bath. 4.00 per day

Meals to outsiders at 50 cents each for breakfast and luncheon and 75 cents for dinner.

There are several suites of rooms with bath which will accommodate parties of four or six and sometimes eight in a suite. It is suggested that friends might make up their own parties and engage suites.

2) Cottages on hotel grounds.

These cottages will be under hotel management, and are part of headquarters. Rates will be \$2.50 per day, with meals at the hotel. Some of them are nearer to the pavilion than the hotel itself, and have the advantage of being more quiet. Parties of friends will be assigned to cottages, if it is so desired.

3) Private cottages.

It is likely that somewhat cheaper rates can be secured through the hospitality of residents. Meals can be obtained at the hotel at prices mentioned above, and every noon a free boat, holding 150 people, will run across to the fine restaurant at Big Island and back again, to accommodate those not stop-

ping at the hotel, and to save time in serving so many.

4) Excelsior hotels.

Excelsior is connected both by trolley and boat with Tonka Bay hotel, and is but an eight minute trip. The rates are \$2 for one in a room, or \$1.50 for two in a room. There are besides several excellent summer boarding places, with rates of \$8 to \$10 per week, which furnish quite as good accommodation as any of the hotels.

5) Del Otero hotel.

This hotel is under very good management, with rates the same as the Tonka Bay. It is in the upper lake, and is a beautiful quiet place. Fifty people can be accommodated here. Express boats touch here every half hour, and the company have arranged to send out a free boat night and morning to convey A. L. A. members back and forth from any of the outside points to Tonka Bay. It will, therefore, be entirely convenient for members to stay at any of the above mentioned places.

If any members have friends living in Minneapolis with whom they wish to stay, it is altogether practicable to go back and forth. It is a 48 minute trip from the center of Minneapolis to Tonka Bay. Hundreds of Minneapolis people go out to Minnetonka for evening concerts at Big Island, and our A. L. A. people could easily make the trip if they wish to. If anyone desires to stay in the city, the local committee will be glad to furnish information regarding hotels or boarding places.

Applications for reservations may be made at any time, and notice will be sent to each one in due time, of the place, number of room, etc., assigned to him.

GRATIA COUNTRYMAN,

Chairman Rooming committee.

A correction

In a recent circular issued by a certain railroad a statement is made that the "local committee has, therefore, requested that we get into direct communication with all members in the East with the view of arranging, if possible, to have them congregate at Chicago."

On behalf of the local committee I desire to assure the members of the association that neither the committee, nor any member of it, has ever authorized any such statement on the part of that railroad. They were specifically informed that all travel arrangements were in the hands of Mr Faxon.

J. T. GEROULD,

Chairman Local committee.

N. E. A. meeting at Cleveland

Those of the A. L. A. who desire to attend the meetings of the library section of the N. E. A. can do so by leaving Minneapolis on the afternoon of Saturday, June 27, reaching Mackinaw early on Sunday morning. The boat which leaves Monday morning will be at her pier, and it will not be necessary for the party to meet the expense of going to one of the hotels if they do not care to do so. They can have a quiet day at Mackinaw, sleep on board that night, leave there on the morning of Monday, June 29, and be in Cleveland late in the afternoon of Tuesday.

The N. E. A. will move all library meetings forward to Wednesday and Thursday. The local committee under the direction of Mr Brett has made arrangements for some interesting exhibits in the branch libraries, showing the possible working connection between the public library and the public school. Several round-table conferences have been agreed upon which will be interesting and helpful.

American Library Institute

Owing mainly to change of date for the coming A. L. A. conference at Lake Minnetonka, and consequently probable absence of some principal participants otherwise expected, it has been deemed best to omit the proposed Institute meeting planned to be held there in June, in advance of that of the A. L. A. More propitious conditions may possibly admit of one being held elsewhere in September or October next.

HENRY J. CARR, Sec'y.

Library Section of National Education Association

Three meetings will be held in the branch library assembly rooms of the Cleveland (Ohio) public library to which everyone interested in the relations of schools and libraries is invited.

Program.

Wednesday morning, July 1.

1. Exhibition and description of an actual library of medium size (to take the form of a round-table discussion), led by William H. Brett, librarian, Cleveland public library, assisted by other librarians, who will also offer exhibits illustrating their respective library methods.

2. How far should courses in Normal schools and Teachers' colleges seek to acquaint all teachers with the ways of organizing and using school libraries?—David Felmley, president of Illinois normal university, Normal, Ill.

Discussion led by Philo M. Buck, head of department of English, McKinley high school, St. Louis, Mo.; Maud A. Goodfellow, librarian and instructor in library economy, State normal school, Fitchburg, Mass.

Thursday forenoon, July 2.

Round table—Subject: The methods of administering public libraries for the benefit of public schools.

Leader, James H. Canfield, librarian, Columbia university, New York City.

Many librarians returning from the Minnetonka meeting (to be held during the preceding week) will be present and set forth their methods of library administration.

Thursday afternoon, July 2.

Topic: How to make the library more serviceable to students of school age.

(a) From the superintendent's viewpoint—L. E. Wolfe, superintendent of city schools, San Antonio, Texas.

(b) From the library worker's viewpoint—Miss E. L. Power, instructor in library use, City normal school, Cleveland, Ohio.

Discussion (continuing and reviewing any questions that may have arisen during the sessions), led by Homer H. Seerley, president, State normal school, Cedar Falls, Iowa; I. C. McNeill, superintendent of schools, Memphis, Tenn.; William M. Davidson, superintendent of schools, Omaha, Nebr.; E. T. Fairchild, state superintendent of public instruction, Topeka, Kan.; Lawrence J. Burpee, librarian, Carnegie library, Ottawa, Canada.

JOHN R. KIRK,
MARY EILEEN AHERN,
IDA J. DACUS.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh Training school for children's librarians

The spring term of the Training school opened April 20.

April 20 and 21, Gilbert D. Emerson gave two lectures on bookbinding.

April 23, C. W. Sutton, librarian of the free libraries of Manchester, England, Mr. Plummer, alderman, and Mr. Abbott, councilman, spoke to the school on Library work in Manchester.

April 27-29, Anna B. Gallup, curator of the children's museum of the Brooklyn institute of arts and sciences, gave the following four lectures to the school:

Children's museum equipment and work, illustrated with lantern slides.

Coördinate work of libraries and museums.

Coöperation between schools and museums.

Children's museum exhibits.

Regular courses are being given this term in Reference work, Cataloging, Literature for children, Some fundamental principles of education, Organization of children's departments, and Parliamentary law.

The dormitory for students has passed the experimental stage, and is now a permanent fact. A house within walking distance of the library has been rented and comfortably furnished. Students who have applied to enter the school the coming year, and wish to live at the dormitory, are assigned to rooms in the order of their applications.

Drexel institute

The students, accompanied by the director, made their out-of-town visits to the libraries of Trenton, Princeton, New York, Brooklyn and Newark, May 6-9. Among the libraries visited were the Trenton public library, the library of Princeton university, the library of Columbia university, Teachers' college library, the New York public library (three branches), Pratt institute library, the Brooklyn public library, the library of the General theological seminary in

New York, the Y. W. C. A. library, New York, and the Free public library of Newark, N. J. Many hospitalities were extended to the class by the various libraries. At the Pratt institute there was a tea, which gave the class an opportunity to meet the students of the Pratt institute library school. The class also visited in May the libraries of the Pennsylvania historical society and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Helen R. Keller, assistant librarian and instructor in the library school, will attend the summer school at Cambridge, England.

Mrs S. C. Fairchild, formerly vice-director of the New York state library school, gave two lectures to the class on the American library movement, May 18-19. Her lectures were illustrated with lantern views.

Caroline F. Lauman, class of '07, has been appointed cataloger in the Public library of Canton, Ohio.

Of the graduating class the following will enter into positions immediately:

Reba F. Lehman, librarian of the Public library, Conshohocken, Pa.

Isabel M. Turner, librarian of the Free library of the Bethlehems, Bethlehem, Pa.

Amy S. Baldwin, assistant, Public library, New York City.

Mary L. Doig, cataloger, University of Pennsylvania library.

Alice R. Eaton and Emma R. Jack, of the graduating class, will travel in Europe during the summer.

ALICE B. KROEGER, Director.

University of Illinois

The members of the school have been particularly fortunate during the past month in the number of visiting lecturers who have spent some time at the school. Three of these were graduates or former students, and came as representatives of the Alumni association.

Miss Clatworthy, 1900, president of the Illinois library school association, lectured before the library school on April 21, taking as her subject The work done by the Dayton public library, of

which she is librarian. It was an inspiring and practical address.

Alice S. Tyler, 1894, secretary of the Iowa library commission, gave us two inspiring talks on Commission work in the state of Iowa, showing what can be done by a commission whose funds are somewhat restricted and which is obliged to make use of every possible organization in the state. Miss Tyler lectured also on the exceedingly practical subjects of Relations between the library and the trustee, and on Business methods in the library. Her lectures were given on April 27 and 28.

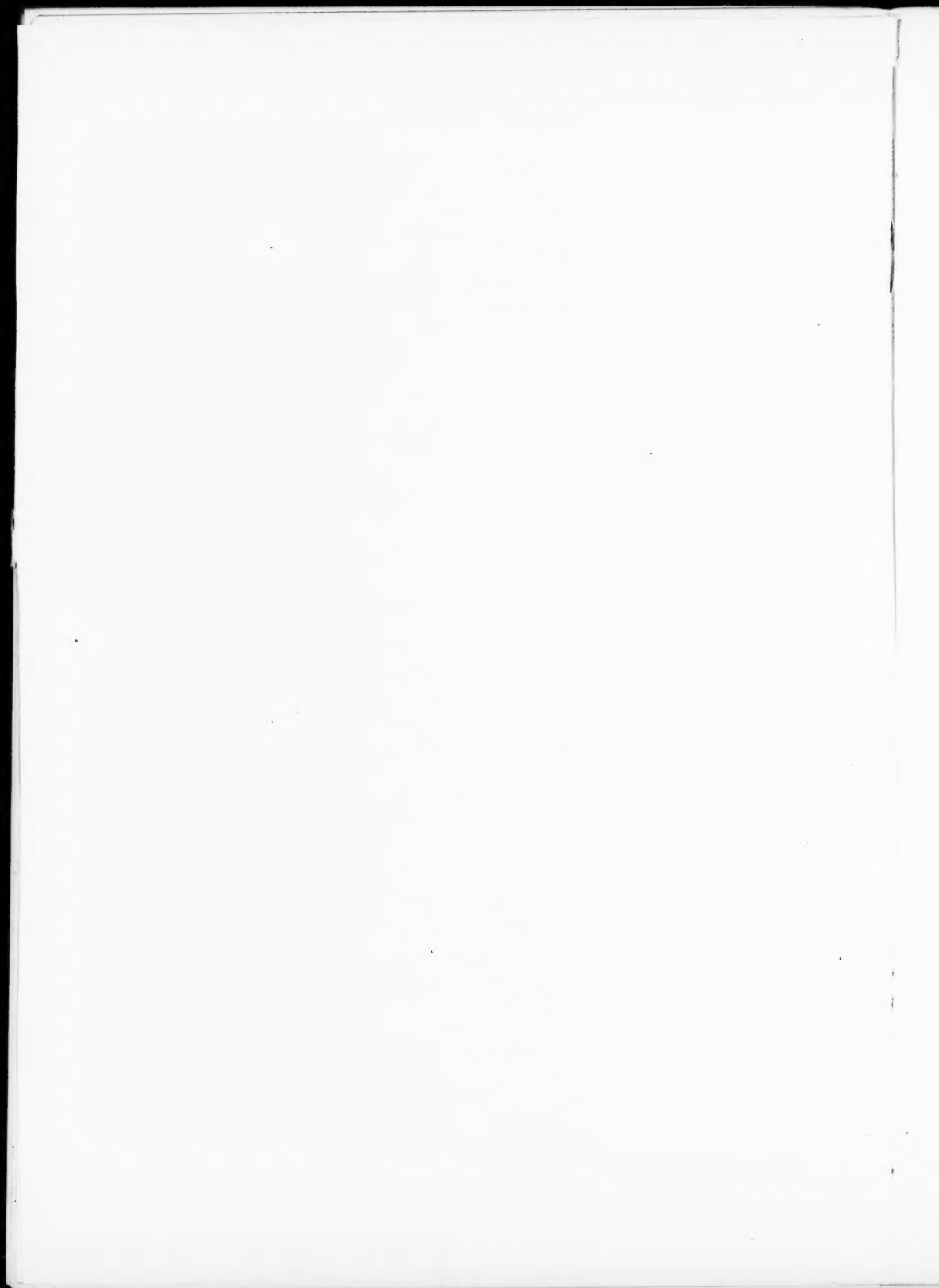
On April 30 Chalmers Hadley of the Indiana commission gave two helpful addresses, one in the afternoon, on the subject of Library buildings, which he illustrated with plans of buildings, façades, etc. In the evening, Mr Hadley spoke on Commission work in Indiana, dwelling particularly upon some of the libraries in Indiana, which are interesting from an historical point of view.

Edna Lyman has just finished a series of seven lectures on the general subject of work with children, children's libraries and story telling.

Irene Warren, 1896, visited the school, May 5, and in her talk before the school took as her topic The making of a picture collection. This address was most practical and helpful, based as it was upon the unusually good collection of pictures gathered by the library of the School of education, of which Miss Warren is librarian.

The lectures have been brought to a fitting and inspiring climax by Miss Stearns of the Wisconsin free library commission, who gave three addresses. Miss Stearns spoke on Western phases of library work, Library beautiful, and gave her inimitable talk which she calls Regulate your hurry.

The members of the school and of the library staff have been most profoundly interested in all of the speakers who have appeared before them recently. The list of addresses offered a pleasing



variety and will be a source of future inspiration.

Mary Baker, ex 1908, has been appointed head cataloger of the Bryn Mawr college library. Annebell Fraser, of the class of 1908, has been asked to assist in the office of Melvil Dewey, Lake Placid club, during the summer months. Several members of the class of 1908 and 1909 will receive, in addition to their degree of B. L. S., that of A. B., from the College of literature and arts in the University of Illinois, as they have taken sufficient work in addition to their library course to obtain the bachelor's degree.

Notes of graduates

Brace, Mrs Elizabeth (Wing), 1897, has moved to Scarsdale, N. Y.

Fyfe, Isabella, 1904, is married to Dr L. S. Peters. Her address is New Mexico Cottage Sanatorium, Silver City, N. M.

Henderson, Maude R., 1896, is married to Nelson L. Robinson, 381 Central Park, West, New York City.

Ingles, Ada M., 1902, has gone to the Wesleyan university library, University Place, Neb.

Spellman, Lorinda, B., 1901, is assistant at the Public library, El Paso, Texas.

Stover, Bessie E., ex. 1908, is assistant librarian at the Public library, Iowa City, Iowa.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

Western Reserve university

Dr Charles F. Thwing, president of the university, returned April 20, after an absence of 10 months spent in a trip around the world, studying educational institutions. On Wednesday morning, April 29, he met the class of '08 of the library school and spoke informally to them about the line of work they had chosen.

The annual trip to Pittsburgh took place April 13-15, and this year included Allegheny as well as Pittsburgh proper. The plans for the three days were carried out very successfully, thanks to the thought and kindness of the staffs of the

libraries visited and to the good weather which attended the party up to the last afternoon. The trip differed this year from others in that more time in proportion was spent in the Central library of Pittsburgh, a special feature which proved well worth while. Two social occasions lent pleasantness to the trip. One was a tea given by the staff of the Carnegie library in their staff room, where even here the thoughtfulness of our hosts was displayed in carrying out the decorations in the Western reserve colors—red and white. On the same evening an informal party was given by Miss Elterich, one of the class whose home is in Pittsburgh.

Emeretta G. Root, of the class of '07, was married April 11 to Renier J. Straeten, assistant surgeon, United States navy. Mr and Mrs Straeten will reside at Guam, Ladrone Islands.

Summer schools

The supplementary course which hitherto has been given every second year in connection with the summer session of the Wisconsin library school, has been transferred to the regular school year, and was held this year, May 3-18. The work offered was a course in children's literature, conducted by Mrs Grace R. Darling, librarian of the Stout training schools of Menomonie, Wis.; Binding, by Miss MacDonald, editor of the *A. L. A. Booklist*. In addition, other lectures in the course of the regular school were open to the students on the subject of Library administration, Public documents, Reference work and Bibliography.

The fifth session of the McGill school for librarians at Montreal will begin Monday, June 22, and continue until July 18. The school will be held in the Redpath library. The course will include instruction in the form of lectures, supplemented by practical work in the library.

Henry Holt & Co., publishers of *As The Hague ordains*, announce Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore as its author.

Ontario Library Association

Easter Monday and Tuesday is set apart in Ontario by those interested in library work for the annual meeting of the Ontario library association. The eighth annual meeting in Toronto in the Canadian Institute building was the best yet in many respects. Slowly, but surely the Ontario library association is widening its influence on the libraries of Ontario, and this year several libraries came within the circle. The attendance was larger and more keenly interested than at any previous meeting, and the association was pleased to have as visitor a distinguished American library worker, Miss M. E. Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, whose informal talks were much appreciated.

The president's opening address was brief, but encouraging, referring to the work of the past year. The secretary's report covered the following:

Report of secretary

The past year has been one of quiet, but steady progress. New buildings have been opened in Picton, Bracebridge and Wallaceburg, and some new donations are reported, as follows:

Brussels, \$10,000; Port Elgin, \$8600; Merrickville, \$2500; Teeswater, \$10,000; Elora, \$10,000; Penttanguishene, \$10,000; Petrolia, \$10,000; Pembroke, \$12,000; West Toronto, \$20,000; Dundas, \$10,000.

A considerable and continuous correspondence has passed through the secretary's hands, and it is a pleasure to note the inquiries that come from time to time. During the year the executive committee met three times, a larger number than in any previous year. The increase in the government grant has made it possible for the executive to give more careful consideration to its work than ever before.

Features of the year have been the publication of the proceedings of last year and the library institute last July at Brantford. The proceedings make a volume of 74 pages, and is a valuable library document. The list of best books was also distributed to our libraries.

Library institutes

For library institute purposes the province is laid out in 11 districts, with a center around which the other libraries are grouped, as follows:

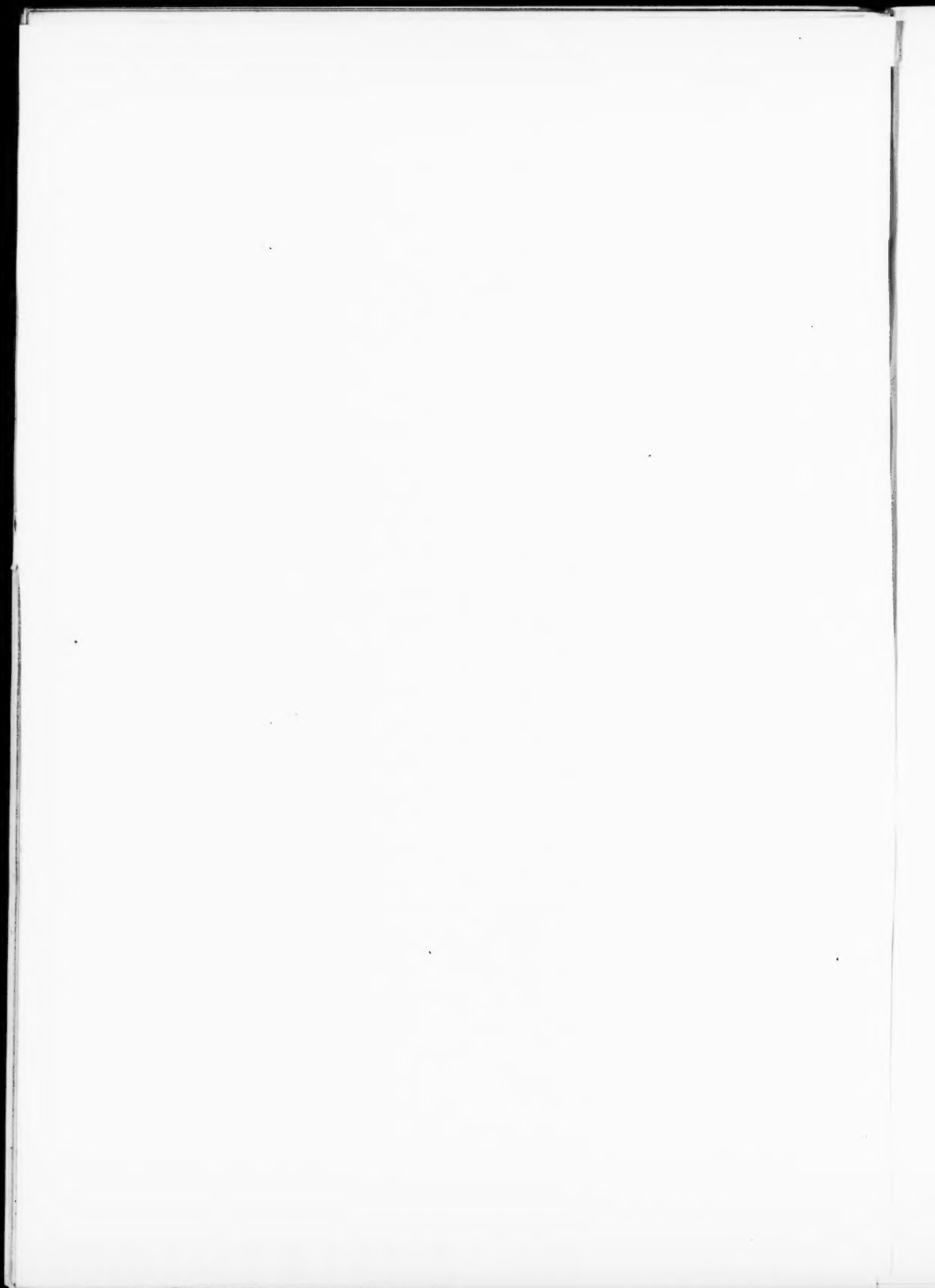
| | | | |
|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Cornwall | 22 | Smith's Falls | 47 |
| Belleville | 22 | Lindsay | 40 |
| Collingwood | 41 | Stratford | 51 |
| Chatham | 28 | Brantford | 36 |
| London | 33 | Niagara Falls..... | 29 |
| Guelph | 60 | | |

The report on public libraries for 1907 is a notable report. It is a pleasure to record here how sympathetic and cordial have been the relations between the Education department and the Ontario library association. It means much for the progress of our work to have so sympathetic an inspector and a deputy minister of education, and we should be emboldened to send a strong deputation to the minister of education and discuss with him the following subjects:

1) The distribution of the grant. A definite small grant for maintenance and a small grant for books should be made to every library fulfilling certain conditions, with the possibility of earning the maximum grant on reasonable conditions.

2) A course for librarians. A course of study should be mapped out that any librarian or assistant could master at home and an examination provided and the certificate of this course be recognized by the government in fixing the maximum grant. Something also should be done to encourage our ambitious librarians to attend the summer schools at McGill.

3) The strengthening of the inspector's department. To expect one man to handle all the library work needed to be done in Ontario is an absurdity. Mr Leavitt should at least have two assistants, besides a clerical staff. There should be a thoroughly qualified man as library organizer and general apostle of library improvement, to spend his time throughout the province in organizing and reorganizing libraries and incidentally galvanizing library boards into some harmony with the spirit of the times. The other assistant should be a



product of the best library schools, an expert cataloger, and thoroughly competent to handle all office problems. This assistant should be at the central office to handle all questions of technical character for libraries throughout the province. With such a staff and with the active support of this association, our work could be somewhat as it should be and not so far behind the times as it undoubtedly is in some respects.

The treasurer's report showed a very satisfactory balance, and means possibilities of advance movements during the current year.

The association was deeply grieved to learn of the serious illness of the dean of library work in Ontario, Dr Bain of the Toronto public library, and sent to him a resolution expressing its sympathy with him in his severe illness, and its high appreciation of his valuable work in the public library movement.

The secretary was instructed to write to the boards about to build and notify them of the collection of slides of new buildings in possession of the association, and the traveling library on library buildings, prepared by the inspector of public libraries, and to request them to make the freest use of these in planning their new buildings. Reports of the standing committees were received from L. J. Burpee, on Public documents; Dr Bain, on List of best books, and A. W. Cameron, on Library institutes.

E. D. Henwood, librarian of Brantford, gave a most interesting account of the binding which he does for his library as a matter of pleasure and interest, for himself and help to the library.

Binding

Bookbinding is the art of making up the sheets of a book into a volume with a substantial case or covering. In the middle ages the work of binding the manuscripts then in use was done by the monks, but with the invention of printing, and the consequent multiplication of books, binding became a mechanical art, carried to a high degree of perfection.

The modern book, as turned out by our great publishing houses, while most beautiful in design and artistic finish, is anything but durable, and I will venture to say few of the popular books in fiction, when subjected to the wear and tear that they receive in the public library, last more than a few months at most. The reason of this is obvious. They are all made by machinery. A machine to fold the sections, a machine to sew the book, a machine to glue and round the back, a machine to make the case, in fact the books are completely bound and finished by machinery. The most durable for the circulating library are those bound by hand.

The first operation in bookbinding is to fold the sheets into sections, then the sections are arranged in proper order. The collected sections are pressed and shallow channels are sawed across the back in order to admit the cords to which the sections are sewed. A sewing bench is used in the operation of attaching the sections to the cords by threads passing around the latter. The back is then covered with a coating of glue, and rounded with a hammer, after which it is trimmed. Then the book is again glued, and the back covered with binders' muslin. The case is then made and placed on the book, and then put under a heavy pressure for a few hours. I have here three samples showing the several stages of binding.

The first shows the book sewed, the way each section is sewed to the cords, and the way the end papers are prepared and sewed to the cords in the same manner as the sections. You will observe that at the fold of each paper, it has been strengthened with a piece of binders' cloth. My experience is that at the fold of the end papers is the place where most of the books first give out, and that strengthening with binders' cloth in this way, vastly increased the durability of the book.

The second sample shows the book glued, trimmed and backed, ready for the case. In gluing our books I use a

glue specially prepared for this work. You will observe that these books will open quite freely, and that there is none of that cracking sound usually heard when opening a new book. I will draw your attention to the way the binders' muslin is glued to the back of the sections, and extends over the end papers, becoming, in the finished book, a part of the case.

The third sample shows the completed book, and while it is a simple, plain binding, I have found it very durable. I might say that I have found that books bound in good, strong buckram cloth last longer than books bound in leather. The leather binding seems to rot and crumble, caused, no doubt, to a great extent by modern heating appliances.

An estimate of the probable cost of the necessary tools and appliances required to do the work is as follows:

| | |
|--|---------|
| 1 18-in. paper cutter..... | \$35.00 |
| 1 press capable of pressing 12 books.... | 10.00 |
| 1 sewing bench | 1.00 |
| 2 binders' bones | 1.00 |
| 1 hammer | .75 |
| 1 saw | 1.00 |
| 1 glue pot | 2.00 |
| Sundries | 2.00 |

Total\$51.50

These reports all indicated progress during the year. Messrs Burpee and Langton were appointed a committee to confer with the dominion archivist on the preparation of a check list of Canadian public documents.

A most interesting conference on Classification was opened by C. H. Gould, Montreal, who discussed the expansive system, and Miss H. Young, Toronto, who dealt with the decimal system. A. W. Cameron also gave an account of the installation of the decimal system in a small library. In connection with this conference Ruby Rothwell, of Ottawa public library, gave a most interesting exposition of card cataloging.

At the evening session Patricia Spere-man presented library work for children in a paper based on her experience in the Sarnia public library. Miss Spere-man has been engaged by the Education

department to give some months to the work of introducing children's departments into Ontario public libraries.

The Mission of the public library was dealt with by the Hon. Justice MacLaren, who spoke from the standpoint of one not actively engaged in library work.

The Tuesday morning session was opened by Miss Schmidt, Berlin, who gave a practical demonstration in numbering the backs of books with black enamel and white paint. This was followed by a question drawer, conducted by the secretary. The variety of questions showed the keen interest of the delegates present. The two addresses of the morning were by Inspector Leavitt on Some library problems, and Rev. W. A. Bradley, Berlin, on The public library and the local clubs and kindred organizations in its own town or village.

The association instructed the executive to send a deputation to the Minister of education to confer with him on the following matters:

a) Change in the basis of distribution of legislative grant.

b) Establishment of a course for librarians with examinations and certificates, and also the encouragement of librarians to attend training schools.

c) The increase in help in library problems to be given by the Inspector's department to the libraries throughout the province.

The association at this session also finally decided to recommend the adoption of the decimal system as the official system of classification for Ontario.

The officers for the coming year were as follows: President, Rev. W. A. Bradley, Berlin; first vice-president, His Honor Judge Hardy, Brantford; second vice-president, A. W. Cameron, Streetsville; secretary, E. A. Hardy, Moulton college, Toronto; treasurer, A. B. Macallum, Canadian institute, Toronto; councillors, Jas. Bain, Toronto; Dr C. R. Charteris, Chatham; David Williams, Collingwood; L. J. Burpee, Ottawa; W. F. Moore, Dundas; Janet Carnochan, Niagara; Norman Gurd, Sarnia, ex-president.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The annual meeting of the Chicago library club was held Thursday, May 14, at the Chicago public library.

After the business of the evening the retiring president, Miss Warren, gave an address on the Duty of professional loyalty among librarians. She pointed out the need of such an association as the Chicago library club for all library workers in the city, expressing the thought that even those in the highest positions that seem to take no interest in the object and work of the club would find it a helpful instrument in their affairs. It is impossible to keep in touch with local library progress and consequently correct ideas of one's own place in the problem do not prevail, without occasional attendance at the library club meetings. The club to obtain its greatest usefulness should make itself felt in the community. This has been done to some extent in the work of the club in the last few years.

The reports of various committees to which duties have been assigned during the year were made.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, C. W. Andrews, John Crerar library; vice-presidents, W. E. Lewis, Library Bureau, and Chesley R. Perry, Chicago; secretary, Bessie Goldberg, Chicago public library; treasurer, Mary L. Watson, Newberry library.

A vote of thanks was given to the president for her efforts in behalf of the interests of the club during the past year.

EMILY M. WILCOXSON, Sec'y.

District of Columbia—The regular monthly meeting of the Library association was held April 8, 1908, in the lecture room at the public library, with President W. Dawson Johnston in the chair. About 40 members were in attendance. Dr Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore,

was the speaker of the evening. Dr Steiner's discussion of his subject, Some of the relations of libraries and the federal government, was received with especial interest, because of his position as chairman of the committee of the American library association on relations of libraries to federal and state governments.

The earliest service rendered to libraries by the federal government was in the publication by the United States bureau of education in 1876 of its Public libraries in the United States. Since that time the points of contact between the government and libraries have grown so numerous that it was eminently fitting for the American library association to recognize their importance by the appointment of a special committee. The work of this committee, since its formation at Asheville in May, 1907, was briefly outlined by the speaker. A more detailed report has already been published in the Bulletin of the A. L. A. for March, 1908.

Dr Steiner spoke commendingly of the improved service rendered by the office of the superintendent of documents in the more rapid distribution of public documents to libraries. He also urged that librarians work for the authorization by Congress of a parcels post, which he considers of more importance than the subsidiary question of a library post.

The present committee on federal and state relations consists of six members, including one Canadian. It is desirable that a separate committee be organized for Canadian matters, and that the committee for the United States should consist of a few members, all located near Washington, or of a much larger number of members more widely distributed than at present. More attention should be paid to the increasingly important relations of libraries with the state governments.

At the close of Dr Steiner's address Dr Otto Klotz, astronomer-royal of Canada, who was present, made a few remarks concerning library conditions in Canada and in the city of Ottawa, where he is president of the library board of the

recently established Carnegie library.

After the addresses a brief informal social gathering was held in an adjoining room, where light refreshments were served. This feature of the evening proved so acceptable that it is likely to be repeated at future meetings.

WILLARD O. WATERS, Sec'y.

Georgia—The Georgia library association held its seventh annual meeting in the class room of the Library training school, Carnegie library of Atlanta, April 29-30.

The first session was held on Wednesday morning and was called to order by Mrs J. K. Ottley, vice-president of the association.

Mrs Heard, the president, presented her address, which set forth the history of the work of the association for the past year, and expressed the hope that the coming year would witness a greater realization on the part of trustees of the advantages to be derived from such meetings and that they would see fit to send their librarian to future meetings of the association.

Henry E. Legler, secretary of the Wisconsin library commission, then presented an able address on The library's part in the world's work.

Mrs Ottley followed, speaking briefly of the Georgia library commission, which has no appropriation, but has really been carrying on a very active work through the courtesy of the Carnegie library of Atlanta.

The second session was called to order by Mrs Percival Sneed, of the Library training school. The first subject on the program was Women's clubs and libraries in Georgia, and was presented by Mrs E. C. McCabe, chairman library committee of the State federation of women's clubs. The splendid work now being done by the Women's clubs was very graphically and interestingly told.

Following this address, Mrs Sneed conducted a round-table of Southern library progress, the following members and visitors taking part in the discussion: Mrs Maud B. Cobb, Georgia state library; Laura Hammond, Georgia

school of technology; Marion Bucher, Agnes Scott college library; Margaret Dunlap, Chattanooga public library; Paul F. White, Emory college library; Mrs Pace, of Covington; Miss Norris, of Tifton, and Mrs Jones, of Norcross.

Immediately after the afternoon session tea was served by the members of the Library training school and this informal reception in the class room was greatly enjoyed.

The third session of the meeting was called to order by Julia T. Rankin, secretary, Thursday morning.

R. L. Foreman, vice-president of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, introduced Mary W. Plummer, director of Pratt institute library school, who gave the address of the morning on the Development of the public library.

The following resolution* were adopted by the association before adjournment Thursday morning:

Whereas, for the first time in its history the Georgia library association has met without a presence that was the inspiration in the beginning, its consolation through years of trial, and at all times the guide to which it turned for direction and courage, and the fact that Anne Wallace is no longer with us is only made a matter of cheerful mention by our recognition of the fact that after years of devoted service to the library movement in the state, and the giving in an unstinted measure of her time, strength and remarkable ability to the organization of our movement, she is now, as Mrs Howland, enjoying that portion of personal happiness which she so richly deserves.

Therefore, your committee feels that its voices in but a faint manner the feeling of the association when it moves to express in this resolution, the sentiment of loss that it has sustained, and the feeling that in the marriage of Miss Wallace we have given up a leader and a source of inspiration that can never be replaced. Her work will live after her, and our future prosperity and well-being, however they may come, will always in our hearts and minds be ascribed to her years of patient and brave planning?

Therefore, be it resolved that this small tribute be inscribed on the minutes of the Georgia library association, and that a copy be sent to Mrs Max F. Howland.

MRS E. G. McCABE, Chairman,
MARGARET DUNLAP,
LOUISE SMITH,

Committee.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs Eugene B. Heard, Middleton; first vice-president, J. H. T. McPherson, Athens; second vice-president, Mrs J. K. Ottley, Atlanta; third vice-president, Mrs Maud Barker Cobb, Atlanta; secretary and treasurer, Julia T. Rankin, Atlanta.

JULIA T. RANKIN, Sec'y.

Iowa—The second annual meeting of the Southeast district of the Iowa library association was held in the public library at Fairfield, Iowa, May 15, 1908, with a large attendance. Among the number were two from the Library commission, 11 trustees and 11 librarians.

Two sessions devoted to informal talks on various subjects of general interest to library workers were held.

The morning session opened, with an address of welcome by the president of the board of trustees of the Fairfield library. Mrs A. J. Barkley, president, extended greetings from the Iowa library association and gave an interesting statement of the plans and purposes of the district meetings of the state.

The work of the library with the schools was presented in a practical way by Miss Downey, of Ottumwa: She spoke of the necessity of getting into touch with the community and of buying books suitable to its needs. She suggested various ways in which every library can do effective work with the schools, dwelling especially on the importance of helping the child to help himself by giving him practical instruction in the use of the library and its reference aids.

The committee on place of meeting for 1909 reported, through Miss Downey, its chairman, that the district had received an invitation to hold the meeting at Mt Pleasant, and suggested that a recommendation be made to the I. L. A. committee on district meetings that the librarian of the town where the meeting should be held be elected chairman of the district. The report was adopted.

The afternoon program opened with an inspiring talk by Dr Parsons, of Par-

sons college, on the subject of The educational value of the library to the community. Among other interesting things, he spoke of the importance of making our books felt, and of giving to the individual the right book at the right time.

An entertaining paper on the subject of Book lists in newspapers was next read by Mrs S. E. Beckwith, of Mt Pleasant, in which she called attention to the inadequacy of many book titles to express the subject matter of the book, and spoke of the helpful work the publishers were doing in so profusely annotating their new publications. She recommended that librarians make their newspaper lists more valuable to the public by the free use of explanatory notes.

The district was fortunate in having in attendance at the meeting Iowa's state librarian, Johnson Brigham, who spoke entertainingly on the subject of Books and how to buy them. Mr Brigham told of the veritable bargain counter to be found in auction and secondhand catalogs, and urged librarians not to overlook these catalogs as some of the best aids in book buying.

Mrs Arpin Antrobus, of Burlington, followed with a helpful talk on How the club women can help the library, and gave many practical suggestions to the librarians and club women present.

Chas. J. Fulton, of Fairfield, next spoke on Trustees' problems, and this was followed by a general discussion in charge of Alice S. Tyler of the State commission.

At the conclusion of the program a vote of thanks was extended to the librarians and trustees of the public library and Parsons college for the many courtesies shown to the association.

A reception at Parsons college followed upon the adjournment of the meeting, where a pleasant social hour was spent, followed by an entertaining and instructive talk on Panama by Lafayette Young, of Des Moines.

DAISY B. SABIN, Chm.

Kansas—The Kansas library club was organized at Manhattan, Kan., March 6. The club will hold round-table conferences for the mutual help and profit of its members. The club will include those interested in library work in Abilene, Blue Rapids, Clay Center, Concordia, Junction City, McPherson, Manhattan, Marysville and Salina. Marion R. Glenn, librarian of Public library, Junction City, is president and Mary C. Lee, librarian of Carnegie library, Manhattan, secretary.

Massachusetts—The third meeting of the New England college librarians was held at Radcliffe college, Cambridge, on Monday, April 27. There were 43 members present, representing 16 colleges, and the discussions were of the usual informal character.

Mr Lane of Harvard reported on some investigations he had made on the subject of sending acknowledgments for catalogs, reports, etc., received by libraries. To his 171 inquiries, 158 replied, of which only 12 desired acknowledgments. Many of the others highly commended the movement for discontinuing the custom and thanked Mr Lane for aiding in its discontinuance.

Other subjects discussed were Charging systems and Devices for keeping track of books temporarily removed from the shelves.

Miss Farley, librarian of Radcliffe college, gave a description of their new library building and called attention to the fact that they had built on the alcove plan.

At the close of the meeting the visitors were shown through the new building and later attended, by invitation, the dedicatory exercises of the building. The principal address was given by Dr J. S. Billings, librarian of New York City.

It is probable that the next meeting of the college librarians will be held at Bowdoin college, some time in November.

Minnesota—The Twin City library club held its April meeting at the Handicraft Guild, Minneapolis. Fifty-five were

present at supper, which was served in the attractive tea-room. After supper Edith Griffith of the Guild read a very interesting paper on the Craft of book-binding, reviewing the work of the most famous binders, and then demonstrating the various processes of forwarding, binding and tooling. The remainder of the evening was spent in visiting Miss Griffith's studio and the book shop of Edmund D. Brooks, where many choice bindings and rare editions with autograph letters were on exhibition.

At the brief business session, J. T. Gerould presented the report of the A. L. A. local committee on arrangements for the Minnetonka conference.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: James T. Gerould, University of Minnesota, president; Mrs Helen J. McCaine, St Paul public library, vice-president; Clara F. Baldwin, Minnesota library commission, secretary-treasurer; D. L. Kingsbury, Minnesota historical society, Mrs F. W. Reed, Minneapolis public library, members of executive committee with the foregoing officers.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, Sec'y.

Montana—The Montana state library association met in Bozeman, April 24-25, nine libraries being represented at the meeting.

The first session was a special assembly at the Agricultural college, and consisted of three addresses of a general nature, by President Hamilton of the college, W. S. Bell of Helena, and Gertrude Buckhouse of the University library at Missoula.

The second session was held at the lecture room of the Public library, and consisted of two addresses, that of the president, Granville Stuart, on Public libraries of Montana, and by W. S. Bell, of the Historical library, on The historical library, its origin and mission.

At the business session Saturday morning, the following officers were elected:

President, Granville Stuart, Butte public library; vice-president, Grace Stoddard, Missoula public library; secretary-treasurer, Marguerite Bowden, Helena

public library. The next meeting was appointed to be held in Helena, in December, 1908.

The afternoon session consisted of papers, on The newspaper and the library, by Ida Sternfels of Butte, on The children's section, by Elizatbeth L. Thomson, of Anaconda. These papers were followed by discussions, and there followed a general library round-table.

Acting upon a suggestion from the Public library of Kalispell, the Executive committee was empowered to take steps to introduce into the next legislature, a bill to provide for the raising of the present one mill tax limit for library support, to two mills.

It was also decided to request the State historical library to publish as a monograph, the first book written on Montana, Montana as it is, by Granville Stuart, which has been long out of print.

Saturday evening a reception was given in honor of the visiting librarians at the home of W. W. Livingston, trustee of the Bozeman public library.

ELIZABETH McCORD.

Nebraska—The Lincoln library club held its last meeting of the year Tuesday evening, May 12, at the home of Juliet Vore of the city library. After a picnic supper, the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Charlotte Templeton, of the Nebraska public library commission, president; Clara Craig, of the State university library, vice-president, and Lulu Horne, of the Lincoln city library, secretary-treasurer.

The club was organized last October and now has a membership of about 30 librarians and library trustees, representing eight libraries. Meetings have been held once a month, at which papers have been read and a social time enjoyed. Among the most interesting features of the programs were a paper on Edith Wharton by Dr Louise Pound of the State university, one on the Libraries of Washington, D. C., by Dr W. K. Jewett, librarian of the State university library, and a talk on County

extension by Margaret Palmer. The next meeting of the club will be in October.

New York—The Hudson Valley library club held its fourth annual meeting at the Adriance memorial library, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., on April 22, with an attendance of over 30. A round-table on important library topics was held in the morning and in the afternoon Dr White, of the New Paltz normal school, spoke on Library training at normal schools. Dr White said that the first library training in normal schools was given at Greeley, Colo., and the New Paltz normal school.

At the latter place the course was under the direction of Prof. White. The object of the course as brought out by the address was:

- 1) To assist the students in their own literary methods.
- 2) To train students to use library materials.
- 3) To administer and successfully use school libraries.
- 4) To enable students to decide whether they were better fitted for library work than teaching.

On motion of Mr Magill, of Pleasant Valley, it was resolved that to recognize the important work of Benjamin Franklin in establishing a library at an early period of the country's history, a day be celebrated by the libraries of the club as Franklin day.

The following officers were elected: President, John C. Sickley; vice-president, Helen M. Blodgett; secretary, Marion F. Dutcher; treasurer, Blanche B. Shelb; executive committee, the president and secretary, H. N. W. Magill, Helen M. Blodgett, Frances D. Thomson.

Pennsylvania—The last meeting for the season of the Pennsylvania library club was held on Monday evening, May 11, 1908, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia, John J. Macfarlane in the chair. The following persons were elected to office: President, Arthur Low Bailey; vice-presidents, Rev. Lucien M. Robinson,

S.T.D., Edith Ridgway; secretary, Edith Brinkmann; treasurer, Bertha Seidl Wetzell. Mr Bailey accepted the office of president with a brief speech of thanks for the honor tendered him. The speaker of the evening was Prof. Leslie W. Miller, principal of the Pennsylvania museum and school of industrial art, and secretary of the Fairmount Park art commission, who gave a very interesting talk on the City beautiful, with especial reference to local conditions.

Prof. Miller said that the city has always been compared with the country, in point of beauty, to the detriment of the former; but since the exponents of the best efforts of human thought and endeavor have always sought the city, and since the city is essentially the product of man, it is time to stop abusing it and to begin to make it as beautiful as possible. There is no better expression of the incentive which should animate the citizen than that of the old edict promulgated at the time of the rebuilding of the Cathedral at Florence, which stated that it was the highest mark of prudence to make the building as beautiful and as permanent as possible, and that this could be accomplished by "the united will of many citizens" only.

There are but three cities in America which have been carefully planned, of which Washington stands foremost, it being, indeed, perhaps the best-planned city in the world. Philadelphia has grown far away from the small country town originally laid out by William Penn, and at present exhibits the worst possible arrangement of streets and buildings. By means of a series of lantern slides the contrast between the condition of the Schuylkill water-front at Philadelphia and of those at Paris and Lyons, was brought out very skilfully, while similar conditions relating to our public buildings and those of other foreign cities were also contrasted. Prof. Miller made a strong plea for harmony of design and careful thought in planning hereafter the construction of public edifices.

The meeting was followed by the usual reception and tea.

Illinois Library School Association

In accordance with instructions received from the association at the meeting at Asheville last year, the Executive board names the following alumni representatives to send news items and comments on the school to the secretary:

California—R. C. Woodmansee, University of California library, Berkeley.

Illinois—Frances Simpson, State library school, Urbana.

Indiana—Inez Pierce, Public library, Michigan City.

Iowa—Harriet Howe, University of Iowa library, Iowa City.

Kansas—Gertrude Buck, Public library, Emporia.

Michigan—Alice Wing, Public library, Grand Rapids.

Missouri—Elizabeth Wales, State library commission, Jefferson City.

Nebraska—Joanna Hagey, Public library, Lincoln.

Ohio—Julia Merrill, Public library, Cincinnati.

Pennsylvania—Margaret Mann, Carnegie library, Pittsburg.

Washington, D. C.—Mrs James B. Scott, 1456 Calvert st.

Wisconsin—Anna Pinkum, Public library, Marinette.

New England—Laura Gibbs, Radcliffe college library, Cambridge, Mass.

New York and New Jersey—Adams J. Strohm, Public library, Trenton, N. J.

Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota—Blanche Seeley, Pillsbury branch library, Minneapolis, Minn.

Colorado, Idaho, Montana—Belle Sweet, University of Idaho library, Moscow, Idaho.

Washington and Oregon—Cornelia Marvin, Oregon library commission, Salem, Ore.

Texas and the South—Mary A. Osgood, Public library, Tyler, Tex.

JULIA MERRILL, Sec.

Alumni meeting at Minnetonka

All former students and graduates of Armour institute or University of Illinois library school are urged to attend the annual banquet and business meeting of the Alumni association at Minnetonka, June 24. The date has been set forward from that given in the recent letter sent out by the Executive board.

A large attendance is expected by reason of the presence of so many graduates in the middle west.

Dr Edmund J. James, president of the University of Illinois, hopes to be present or send an official representative to address the alumni, and pleasant anticipatory reports will be heard of the library school.

The most enthusiastic meeting in the history of the Alumni association is expected and each alumnus will feel a personal part in the school and the program. Registration will be asked of all members immediately upon their arrival at Minnetonka.

LINDA M. CLATWORTHY, President.

Interesting Things in Print

Louisville (Ky.) public library has issued a book list entitled *Some detective stories*. The library has also started a bulletin, through which to announce new books added to the library.

Printers' Ink for April 15 contains a Bibliography of advertising literature, containing over 320 entries. It will be a matter of surprise to many that there is so much material relating to the subject of advertising.

The Kansas City public library quarterly contains an extensive bibliography on municipal betterment, classified by subject. In view of the widespread interest in civic improvement, this work of nearly 70 pages is highly commendable.

Those who are interested in promoting the interests of the blind will find the periodical, *Outlook for the Blind*, containing "a quarterly record of their progress and welfare," a helpful tool. It is published by the Massachusetts society, at 277 Harvard st., Cambridge, Mass., at one dollar a year.

A list of books for township libraries in Wisconsin has been issued by the office of the State superintendent of public instruction. It includes the books

recommended for purchase for the year 1908-09, classified by subject. References and directions for cataloging are appended to the list.

The Department of commerce and labor, Bureau of manufactures, has issued a reprint of special consular reports dealing with the cotton-seed products in foreign countries. The appendix contains information concerning the value of foreign coin and currencies, consulars' fees and a list of consular and trade publications.

The April number of the *Bulletin of Bibliography* contains a list of the American journals omitted from Bolton's catalog of scientific and technical periodicals. The list was prepared by William J. Fox, of the Philadelphia Academy of Science. Mr Fox has had access to two specially fine private collections of such literature with many bibliographic notes prepared direct from correspondence with editors and publishers of scientific periodicals.

According to a quotation from Mr Bertram the benefactions of Mr Carnegie for libraries amounted, April 1, to \$49,605,622. A total of 76 buildings and 20 additions to existing buildings have been provided by him in the United States. In addition to these he has built nine libraries in Canada, 13 in the United Kingdom, four in New Zealand, one in the Seychelles Islands, off the coast of East Africa, \$8750; one in Harrismith, South Africa, \$10,000, and one in the Fiji Islands, \$7500.

A bibliography of children's reading, compiled and edited by Prof. Franklin T. Baker, takes up the pages of *Teachers' College Record*, published by Columbia University Press, for January and March. The titles are classified and cover the widest range of literature, chosen very evidently with painstaking intention of including only the best in every case. Teachers and librarians will find material here worthy of a place in every children's collection of books.

News from the Field

East

Woodstock, Me., has received \$6000 for a public library, by the will of the late Mrs Eleanor Whitman.

Bertha Blakely, librarian of the Mount Holyoke college library, is enjoying a two months' vacation in California, making her headquarters at Nordhoff, Ventura county.

The new library building of Radcliff college, Boston, Mass., for which effort has been continuous for more than four years, was formally opened April 27. Dr J. S. Billings of New York gave an address before a large and distinguished audience. A reception and a tour of inspection followed the dedicatory exercises.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Public library of Cambridge, Mass., was observed with appropriate ceremonies in April. Addresses were made by Col. T. W. Higginson, S. W. Foss, librarian of Somerville library, H. G. Wadlin of the Boston public library and others interested in the library. A musical program was rendered and a reception followed the addresses of the evening.

Central Atlantic

Adam J. Strohm, librarian of Public library, Trenton, N. J., will spend the summer and early fall in Europe.

Joanna G. Strange, New York, '08, has been appointed first reference assistant at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

D. Ashley Hooker, New York, '06-7, has been appointed temporary classifier and cataloger at the United States military academy, West Point, N. Y.

Franklin F. Hopper, for some time past connected with the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been elected librarian of the Public library, Tacoma, Wash. He succeeds J. T. Eshelman, who has offered his resignation to take effect September 1.

J. I. Wyer, jr., for the past two years

vice-director of the New York state library school under E. H. Anderson, has been elected state librarian of New York and director of the library school, to succeed Mr Anderson, who has been appointed vice-librarian of New York City.

A catalog of the books for the blind, contained in the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, has been printed by the Maryland school for the blind, and presented by them to the Maryland state library commission for distribution through the commission to the blind people of Maryland.

Central

Ethel P. H. Hoskins, children's librarian of the Dayton (Ohio) public library, has been granted a four months' leave of absence from the library on account of ill health.

The fourth of the new branches under construction by the St Louis public library has been named The Frederick M. Crunden branch. Universal approval has been expressed by the people of St Louis.

Julia A. Hopkins, for the last five years librarian of the Madison (Wis.) public library, has handed in her resignation to the Board of directors of that library. Her resignation will take effect September 1, 1908.

The tenth annual report of the Michigan City (Ind.) public library records a total circulation of 32,959 v., of which 2131 were German books. During the year 658 v. have been added to the library. The total registration is 7554.

Mrs Rena M. Barickman, for some time head of the library at Blue Island, Ill., has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Joliet, Ill., to succeed the late Mrs K. A. Henderson. Mrs Barickman will begin her work, July 1.

The library of the Garrett Biblical institute of Evanston, Ill., dedicated its new \$25,000 library May 10. The library was the gift of William Deering,

who has, from first to last, given the institution in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

Carl R. Roden, for 15 years connected with the catalog department of the Chicago public library, has been advanced to the position of superintendent of the catalog department. This position includes the duties of assistant librarian.

The bill introduced in the Ohio legislature, providing for a state board of library examiners, passed the Senate, but did not reach a final vote in the House before the close of the session. A similar bill will probably be introduced at the opening of the coming session.

The annual report of Newberry library, Chicago, Ill., shows that during the year the library received 67,707 visitors in the 296 days it was opened, 94,266 books were consulted and the museum drew 3989 visitors. During the year 13,771 v. and pamphlets were added to the library. The library now contains 192,440 v. and 44,542 pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, etc.

At a recent meeting of the principals of the city schools of Dayton, Ohio, following a report of the principals' committee on the Relation of the library and the schools, appreciation was expressed in the name of the superintendent, principals, teachers and children, for the intelligent, untiring and willing service rendered the schools by the library. A most cordial note of thanks from the superintendent and principals was sent to the Dayton library staff.

Charles Aldrich, who passed away at his home at Boone, Iowa, March 8, in his eightieth year, was connected with library development in Iowa from its earliest day. He was the founder of the Historical department of Iowa, and was curator until his death. His valuable personal collection of rare autographs and manuscripts was turned over to the state years ago. As editor of the *Annals of Iowa*, he brought together into

permanent form, the early history of the state. He was a charter member of the Iowa library association and kept up his interest in its work until his death.

The Sarah Sargent Paine memorial library, Painesdale, Mich., whose need of a special librarian was noticed in the May number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* (page 186), has secured the services of Gertrude H. Lockwood, who has been equipped by several courses for the work. She is a graduate of Vassar college, where she assisted in the library. She has had courses in Harvard and in the New York school of philanthropy, and has done considerable work in investigating factory conditions for the Consumers' League. In addition she has had the course for children's library work in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

The thirteenth annual report of the John Crerar library records the total use of 330,000 v. and periodicals. During the year the library received 109,700 visitors, an increase of 9 per cent over 1906. The library now contains 215,000 v.; 6000 pamphlets, 2725 periodicals and 5844 other serial publications are received. The building fund is given as \$786,266; book fund, \$359,801; income for the year was \$210,604. Expenses, administration, \$92,422; books, \$44,154; building repairs and depreciation \$12,181, giving a surplus for the year of \$61,846. Considerable alteration was made to accommodate the department of medical science, the reading room of which is to be known as the Senn room. The death of Dr Nicholas Senn during the year is considered as a misfortune for the library. Portraits of Albert Keep, formerly one of the directors, and Dr Nicholas Senn, both deceased, are given in the report.

A recent report of the library of University of Iowa gives the following data:

Total number of volumes in library is 68,000, of which 22,669 have been added in the last five years.

In September, 1907, the library moved into the new natural science building,

where it has ample, though only temporary quarters. The reading room is a large attractive room, seating 400 students now, and it can easily accommodate 100 more without crowding. The massive oak furniture was especially designed by L. B. for this room and is in early English finish.

On Jan. 17, 1908, the first book exhibit for the members of the instructional staff was held. Two or three of these will be given each year and it is hoped that in this way the resources of the library will be brought to the attention of the faculty and a closer relationship established. Future exhibits have been planned to show the different processes of bookbinding, the printing art, book illustration, and bookplates.

Neatly framed notices have been placed in the hotels to call attention to the accessibility of the University library and to invite strangers to make use of the reading and reference room.

A collection was made of university memorabilia, including all printed material relating to commencement and class day, convocations, debates, oratorical contests, and student interests of all kinds. This has all been mounted in specially prepared scrapbooks and is now available for use as a valuable record of university activities.

A printed list of periodicals received at the library was issued during the year.

A printed list of a few items from our duplicate collection was sent to about 200 libraries with a list of some items needed to complete sets. The result was very satisfactory, for a large proportion of our wants listed was secured in this way. It is very evident from the replies received, however, that the majority of libraries pay no attention to their duplicate collection, but disregard a very practicable method of securing valuable additions to their collection.

The librarian acted as resident director of the Iowa summer library school, and gave the instruction in reference work and trade bibliography. The head cataloger gave the instruction in cataloging and related subjects.

Scuth

The fourteenth annual report of the Norfolk (Va.) public library shows an increase in use of their collection, not only by the city of Norfolk, but by the surrounding locality, which has access to the library. The circulation for home use was 83,200 v., with 15,900 v. on the shelves, exclusive of public documents, bound newspapers, etc. In the children's department 946 children are registered.

The libraries of Louisville, Nashville, Memphis and other Southern cities are cooperating heartily with the American Tuberculosis Exhibition in its work in various Southern cities. Lists of books and pamphlets on the dread disease have been printed and distributed to visitors, stimulating an interest both in the exhibition and in the subject among the patrons of the libraries.

Recently a supply of broadsides was left at the delivery desk of the Louisville (Ky.) public library. The heading on the broadsides was Books for you at the free public library, and after some little discussion of the problem of socialism, a list of 15 of what was termed Good books which may be had for the asking, followed. The list was prepared by the local society of Socialists, the library having no knowledge of it until it received the broadsides.

West

The Bohemian societies of Nebraska have presented 650 Bohemian books to the State library commission to be put into the traveling libraries.

Edith Tobitt, librarian of Public library, Omaha, Neb., has sailed for Europe, where she will spend three or four months. Margaret O'Brien will act as librarian in her absence.

The marriage of Asa Don Dickinson, librarian of Public library, Leavenworth, Kan., to Helen Winslow Dickinson, late of the Brooklyn public library, is announced to take place June 6, 1908.

George F. Strong, librarian of the University of North Dakota, Grand

Forks (N. D.), since 1904, has resigned his position to pursue further studies. Under his administration the library has grown from 9000 v. to 27,000 v.

Charles H. Compton has been appointed successor to Librarian Strong at the North Dakota university. He is a graduate of the Nebraska university, spent two years attending the New York state library school at Albany, and has been assistant there the past year.

The George Smith public library of Junction City, Kan., was opened with appropriate ceremonies and a public reception, March 17. The library was built and furnished at a cost of \$40,000, the same being the proceeds of the estate of the late George Smith. After defraying the cost of the building and 4000 books there is still a margin left for the purchase of quite a collection of books. The gift not being large enough to carry a permanent maintenance fund, a business building was erected, the library occupying the second floor and the first floor being rented for offices. While the library has lost in an architectural way, it has gained an income of \$4000 a year, which would have been impossible to raise by taxation in a town of 7000.

Pacific coast

Mary M. Bevans, B.L.S., Illinois, '04, who has been in library work in Wisconsin and Illinois, is now in the reference department of the Los Angeles public library. She has been assisting Anna McC. Beckley, the principal of the department, in preparing an annotated list of 500 masterpieces of art, and will continue her work in this department in connection with the preparation of an annotated catalog of the photographic collection.

Canada

The Picton library has been classified and cataloged under the D. C.

A Carnegie public library, costing \$12,500, will be erected at Dundas, Ontario, during 1908.

The Ontario library association will commence the publication of a Quarterly bulletin list of books for public libraries, July 1.

An additional gift of \$39,000 has been given by Mr. Carnegie to the Public library of Manitoba, Winnipeg, to provide for additions to the Carnegie library building, already erected.

The Ontario education department has engaged the services of Patricia Spere-man, children's librarian of Sarnia, to organize children's departments in the public libraries of Ontario for three months, beginning the first of May with the Public library at Brantford.

A department for special work for the blind people of Ottawa (Can.) will be inaugurated by the Carnegie library of that city. The main feature will be a series of weekly readings. The library has some 50 v. printed in New York point and covering a wide range of literature. Those blind persons capable of reading the books will be allowed to take them home.

Wanted—The office supply of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for January, 1908, is exhausted. We shall be glad to receive any of these numbers from those who are not keeping complete files.

Wanted—Amherst college library has lately come into possession of the remainder of Hitchcock's Final report on the geology of Massachusetts, Northampton, 1841. 2 v. (usually bound together), map and plates. These copies are in sheets folded, and are in first-class condition. As long as they hold out, they will be sent to other libraries for the nominal price of \$1 for the set, in cash or exchange.

For Sale—A copy of proceedings of second international library conference of 1897. Price \$5. Apply to B., care PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

New Books

The life of Alice Freeman Palmer, Palmer. \$1.50. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

This is a notable biography of a notable woman, written from the intimate knowledge of an admiring husband, with the color of an appreciative companion and the power of a ripe scholar. The volume is full of all those qualities which will appeal very strongly not only to the numerous friends of Mrs. Palmer but to those who are interested in her life, as a contribution to history of women who have achieved great things in the educational world.

Paths to the heights, Leavitt. 270p. \$1. Crowell & Co.

A rational discussion of the new theory of "psycho-therapy" by a practicing physician who has adopted as a means to an end, the principles of mental healing to which drugs are sometimes an aid. It is interesting reading for the curious, though they may not believe the doctrine.

The comments of Bagshot, Spender. \$1.25 net. Holt.

J. A. Spender, editor of *Westminster Gazette*, has given us here, whether from his own store, or, as he affirms, from the notebooks of another, philosophy, keen, witty and wise, with such point that one is touched by the compelling tone, to think more than twice before passing on to other things, and then, somehow, his mind reverts again to what he has read. For instance:

Persistently doing what you don't want to do under the idea that you are sacrificing yourself for others may so embitter your character as to make you intolerable to others.

What the whites may learn from the Indians. James Forbes & Co. 269 p. Cloth. \$1.50 net.

This is a most interesting story of the habits and customs of the Indians in their everyday life, written by one in sympathy with the Indian's point of view. The author deals frankly with what he terms the hypocrisy of the white people toward the Indians generally, and the story, as he tells it, gives room for pause in claiming credit for efforts in behalf of the "wards of the nation." At the same time he drives home the lapses of the white race in from good morals and gentle manners in most vigorous language.

On the witness stand, Münsterberg. \$1.50 net. McClure.

The celebrated author of *The Americans* presents here what he terms "popular sketches" in which he outlines problems in which psychology and law come in contact. It is a master hand that lays bare the principles which affect the mind of the one on a witness stand, and urges more attention on the part of serious men to what he calls "an absurdly neglected field which demands the full attention of the social community."

The human race is born in sin and nurtured in carelessness. If anyone doubts this he has only to notice how many fines the Portland public library has collected in one year for books kept overtime and he will doubt no longer. The sum total of these delinquencies amounts to more than 28,000 days, which falls barely short of 77 years. The time thus sinfully passed in keeping books that other people want to read hidden away in bath tubs and coal scuttles if it were concentrated in two or three single lives might do wonders. Twenty years of it might be spent by another Gibbon in writing another *Decline and fall*, 20 more by some younger Spencer in working out a new and better theory of evolution, and still there would remain 37 years for a genius greater than either of these to employ in solving the problems of human misery and teaching us all how to be healthy and happy. What a world it might be if nobody kept library books longer than the rules allow!—*Oregonian*.

In an examination held in one of the large cities for applicants for positions as assistants in the public library of that city, the answers were such as would show the great desirability of choosing public librarians purely on merit. Some of the answers of the would-be assistants were that the seismic theory related to the separation of Norway and Sweden; George Sands was the husband of George Eliot, and that Florence Nightingale was the wife of Henrik Ibsen.

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Smithsonian report for 1906.

Printed catalog cards for this report are now ready for distribution. Price, \$1.08.

There are left only a few sets of cards for the reports of 1896-1905. Price, \$6.85.

Old South Leaflets, volume 7.

Printed catalog cards for this volume, 50 cents.

Price for volume 1-7, \$2.95.

Kroeger. Guide to reference books. Price, \$1.25.

To libraries ordering direct a special price of 75 cents is offered. For mounting purposes, 2 copies in sheets, 60c.

Eastman, W. R. Library buildings. Price, 10 cents.

Revised reprint from the Proceedings of the American Library Association, Waukesha, 1901.

The Handbook of Library Architecture.

A collection of plans and views of library buildings, prepared by the League of library commissions, will be ready in June. Price, \$1.25.

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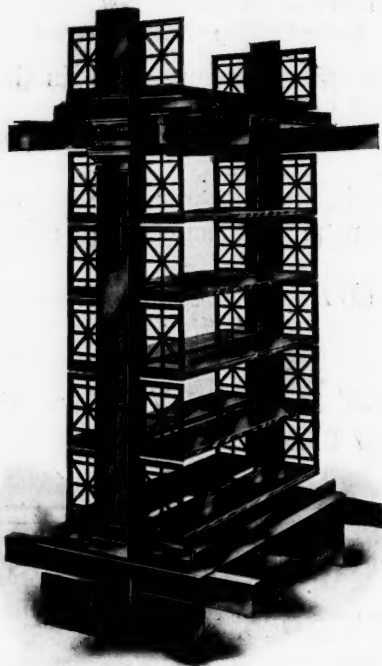
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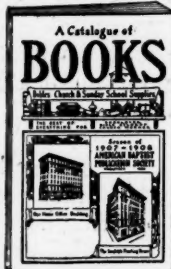
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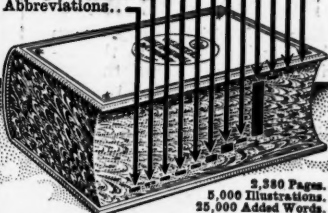
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